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(54) D-XYLOSE DEHYDROGENASE FROM CORYNEFORM BACTERIA AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING D-XYLONATE

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C12P 7/42 (2006.01) *C12N 1/20* (2006.01)

C12N 9/04 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.

(58) Field of Classification Search

CPC C12N 1/205; C12P 7/42; C12Y 101/01175 See application file for complete search history.

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(57) ABSTRACT

A D-xylose dehydrogenase comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof.

17 Claims, 30 Drawing Sheets

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.

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FIG. 1A

1010	£	acqaqsaaqaqoccoqqqttqqaqttqtoqqtqcaqqaqccatqqqtqctqaccacato
хулв	747	-tcaacgccagecggcgtegatecagtattegtggccggtgcagage
iolG		gatogoatosaceacegeacetetggtgeacacatotetgggaattattgagocogacgga
xylä	703.	da-cácáccar.c
ioic	121	go-aogtgoogotgoagotgoagaagaagaogogggugoacagggotttoacuugoattga
xylB		gogaegittotoogggaegatigoggoootteaggeattg-
1016		agat qot at oqoaqoogat qot qt oqa eqoaqt qot qat qooqt accaqqt oaqtt tota
xylS	827	ggccqccacgatctgggcctcgccttcgggcqtqtacc-
ioiG	240	tgagonagt acttgroccagnactagaagesggootcoccatentgtgtgaaaagccact
xylS		acttotoctggsgcttggtottgacgttgsssg

161G	360	gacoccagatitat gaatoctcachqoqostogagotggaqoagaaqotgggacaagac
xylB	55 <i>6</i>	gcassasgcasgtgasgcggat-gtogtcgggasccsgctcocgggccags-
iniG		disssoppdicesssastpspcoccationnoncertifications and second
xylë	200	
1016	420	ggtggaat.ccqqcqssgctggcqaactqctcstgctccqcqqqcctgcaccqcaacccaaq
xylS	477	

101G	480	tyttyyhyagagetacacccaghocahqohgahcaccgactocghoqhocacgaattoga
xy18	442	gqtqccaqctg-atogaaccqaaqttqstcaccq-cccqqccq-ccacq
101G	***	*******************************
		tgtoatoonatggotogoaggotoongagttgtotoogtrgaagtgaagtacosaaagac
xyis	ఎస్.ఎ	ccccathre-cddcccdacddcccdddthcadaacadcatd
1016	600	et cotoactggagaactooggootcaaggaaccaatcotggtgatcatggagstogaasa
xy i 8		tőgegesegetőásagttőstecgetegtéssáat-aggegeegőtese
101G		~~oggogtgottqtrgacgtagagatgaacqtaaarattcaattcggatarcaggtagca
жу18	308	graggecagattgtggaggtagtcattgacggagttqttgaccagcacgtagae
101G	718	acogaagoggtetttgaaaagggaettgenegeatrggccagecaterggaatgeage
xyl8		grogeogatistoggogaagaeegeettgatogcocogaggiteatoaggi-ogcage
,		**************************************
lolG	775	gotggogogacqqtqaattootgatoaacqaacacccqatttoaccacccqtttogota
xyiB	195	ġcttgtägäccggtggggatcggcg
1016		codectacdacadaradarecadaderdddaradaadracacadaaddaacecradrod
жу 18	200	
1016	896	caggoootaacgeatgggstggttacctggttgsactgtcstgcgaagstggtgtcsagg
жу18		toggogatotogaggaagatoaceteogogoootgaogggogaagcoggoggtgagg
lolG	955	earm-ccogacggeggegteateceagttgatg-eggeae-etegece
жy 1.8	77	ccggccccgatgeregagccgccqccqqtgatgaegacgcgcttqccettraggetggga
1.030	sia	
lolG		-agstttctacgettaa
xy18	5.4	tagatggotgaggacat

FIG. 1B

Ny 18 IolG	i masaiypalkqk l makairvqvvqaqanqadb	rvvitgggsgigagltagfargga idrinnrfsgabisaiispdaaraaasaadapgagaffrie
Zy1B IGIG		
Xylk IoiG	79 Taeigdvdvivnn	-sqnddrhkiadvtgaywderinvnirhmifctqavapgmX lvasgasgeilmirgihrnpsvgesytqamlitdsvvhefd
KylB IoiG		-siswhiqlediviyetakaqieqmiralareigpddir taalahaqikepilvimelenqvivdvemnvniqigyqvat
KylB TolG		wytpegeagivaaqcikgrivpenvaalvifi-asddaalc ~tdgeflinehtdftttfataydrqiqswvdavhegtiv
XylB TolG	237 tgbeyw	

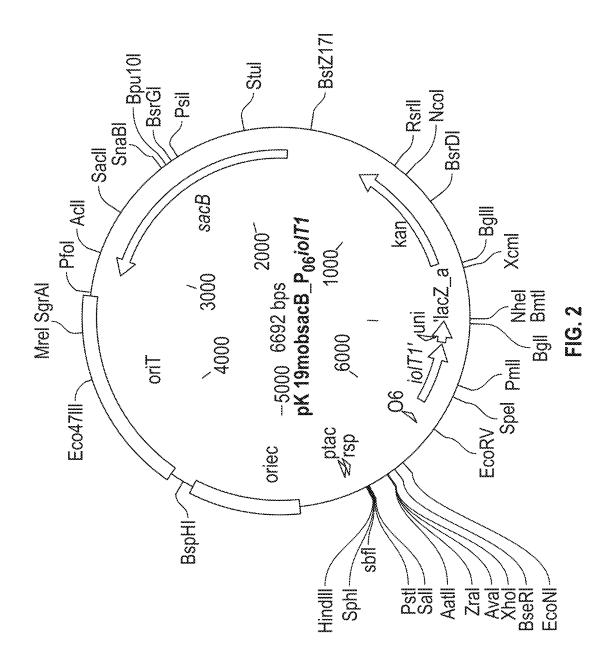


FIG. 3

iolTl WT	l accttgattgateatgtcgaggaaagccgtacggctttcctctgggattg
PO6iolTl	1
iolT1 WT	51 tictacquatqccouctrogcacocttogggttgctogtggtgcattosc
PO6iolTl	5b
iolTl WT	101. cocctgeaccogcctayggrttgetgcasseattcgttcgectttatgg
POSiclTl	101
iolTl WT	151 cagacoteacqcctqtqqtgaaaaattqatcaqcaaacacccagqtttc
POSiolT1	181
iolT1 WT	201 cattogoocoavoaytoovaasatgatgacgttooagagogoogootga
PO6iolT1	201
iolT1 WT	251 ggsaatttgtgcccactttgacacaagtggtcgategacgtctcgagcc
POSiolTl	251
iolTl WT	301. ottaaaegggogattatogosoosocattosogatgtoogstootogsa
POSiclTl	381
iolTl WT	351 gettettgtaatgacattaggatetttaagcagtgaatgaggtgacaat
POSiplTl	351
iolT1 WT	401 toacotaacaaaggtqtcaaacagccccaatcactaccccctccacccc
PO6iolT1	401
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1	451 gcaccottatccageaactoccatgotccaacatttocageggggcag
LOSTOTII	984
iolTl WT PO6iolTl	501 thotgacattasocacataactootgoatcaaacegoagetaacagees
£0010111	501
iclTl WT	551 accoctgotgasaatcccgastggaasaccatacccsasgcagacacccc
PO6iolTl	W/A
iolT1 WT	601 acccctsagtattaccaattactcaasagtattcaasaasgtttgtta
PO6iolT1	-35 ~10
iolT1 WT	651 gtacgattgacgggacatatcgtgtctgccacgattsaagacattggtg
PO6iolT1	651gggg

FIG. 3 (cont'd)

iolTl WT PO6iolTl	701 tgtgaateaetgeetactacategtgtttegtgaeeetgeaeeteeaagt 701
	ioIT1
iolTl WT POSiolTl	751 sagggcacgacsascttaggagacsagatggctagtaccttcattcaggc
iolTl WT POSiolTl	801 cgacagccotgaaaaaagtaagaagctgcccccactcacagaaggtccgt 801
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1	851 atagaaagoggotattotaogttgcactagttgcgacgtttggtgggctg
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1	901 otottoggatatgacacoggagtaatcaacggtgcactcaacccaatgac
iolT1 WT POSiolT1	951 acgtgagetoggactaacegegtteacegagggtgttgtaacttetteoc 951
iclTl WT POSiclTl	1001 tgctgtttggtgcagcagctggtgcgatgtttttcggtcgcatttccgac
iolTl WT	1951 asctggggtogcoggaaascastostotcacttgosgtsgctttctttgt
FO6iolT1	1051
iolTl WT	1101 dggcaccatgatotgogtgtttgctccatcttttgcagtaatggttgtcg
PO6iolT1	1101
iolTl WT	1151 gacgtgtgcttcttggactcgcagttggtggcgcttccactgttgtccct
PO6iolT1	1151
iolfl WT	1201 gtotacetggotgasettgeteettttgaaateegtggoteaetggetgg
PO6iolTl	1201
iclT1 WT	1251 cogtaatgagttgatgattgttgttggtcagctcgcagcttttgtcatca
PO6iolTl	1251
iolTl WT	1301 atgogattattggaastgtttttggacaccacgatggtgtgtggcgctac
PO6iolT1	1301
iolTl WT	1351 atgctggcaattgccgcaatcccagcaattgccctcttctttggaatgct
POSiolTl	1351
iolT1 WT	1401 cegagitecagaatceccacgetggcttgttgagcgaggaegcattgatg
PO6iolT1	1401
iolT1 WT	1451 aggetegegeagttettgaaaccattegeeetetagaaegtgeeeatgea
PO6iolTl	1451

FIG. 3 (cont'd)

iolTl WT PO6iolTl		gaagttgotgatgttgaacacotagcaagagaagagcacgccgtttccga
iolTl WT PO6iolTl	1551 1551	gaagtocatgggcttaagggaaattttgtccagcaagtggcttgtgcgca
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1		tockookggtaggtaboggaktgggtgtogcacagcagctgaccggcakc
iolTl WT PO6iolTl		aactccatcatgtactacggccaggttgttctcattgaggctggtttctc
iolTl WF PO6iolTl		cgagaatgcagctctgatcgccaacqtgqcqccaggagtgatcgcagttg
iolTl WT PO6iolTl		teggtgesttestegesetgtggstgstgstegtstesseegeegtsee
iolTl WT PO6iolTl		accotcattaccggttattctctcaccaccattagccacgtattgatcgg
iolT1 WT FO6iolT1	1851 1851	tatogoatoogtagoattoocagtoggogatootottogoocotaogtta
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1		tettgaetetggttgtggtettegtgggatesatgcagacettcctcaac
iolTl WT PO6iolTl		gtagetacetgggttatgetetetgagetetteeegetggeaatgegegg
iolTl WT PO@iolTl		titogeaatoggtatotoagtgttottoototoggatogcaaacgegttoo
ielTl WT PO6ielTl		toggatbgttottoccaaccatcatggaagcagtaggactaaccggaacc
iolT1 WT PO6iolT1		ttetteatgttegeeggaateggtgtggttgeettgatetteatetaeae
ioltl WT PO61oltl		ccaggttcctgaaactcgtggacgtaccttggaggagattgatgatgatg
iolTl WT PO6iolTl		ttacttcoggtgtcattttcaacaaggacatccgaaaaggaaagg
iolTl WT PO6iolTl	2251 2251	

FIG. 4

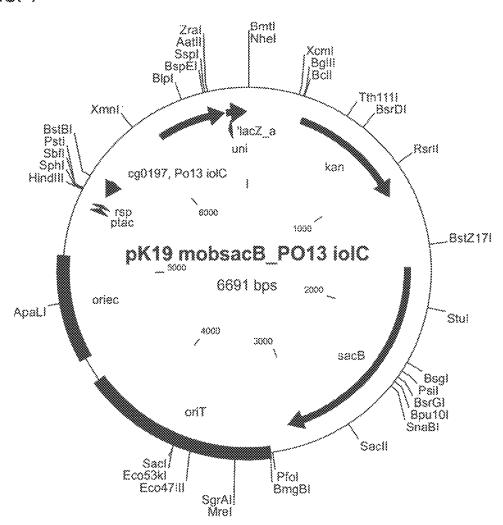


FIG. 5

101C PO13	WT iolC	1	gatgtotcotttogttgcccacccaacaagctcatgtaaatgtqttaggacatttgaaca
TolC POL3	WT iolC	61 61	atgtaactgagttgcgggtggtggtcttggtaaatccgtgttcatgcaggacttttgtgt
TolC PO13	WT iolC		catcoagggottttattgatctgacattatcacttgcattagggaatgagtagcgaaact
IolC FO13			tagtgaaaagggcagagtttgcaggtcataacgtgcaactttgttaaccccgcaccttcc
			-36
IolC PO13	WT iolC		asagogaggggttttegtogacsagcasaatetttgaatgassaccggggggttgccct
TolC PO13	WT iolC		ggggttttgcqcqttttcqggaatcqttrtagaaaattttcqgaaatgtattqctt
			-10 TSS
IolC PO13			aggacaatgtgttattgtcatgacatgogatcgtgagggtcgccacattccatcaaaaat
TolC PO13			gagtgaagggttgcatcgccacatgactaacttgacgagcactcacgaagtcctagctat
TolC POL3	WT iolC		cggccgottgggcgtagatatttaccoacttcaaagtggagtaggactggccgatgttca
TolC PO13			stotitoggosagtacetuggoggaagogesgosascgtttutgttgoagougucegooa
IolC PO13			tggacacaattccgcactgctgtcccgtgtgggaaatgatcctttcggcgagtacctgct
IolC PO13			tgctgagctggagcgtttgggcgtggacaaccagtacgttgccaccgatcagacttttaa
IolC FOl3			gaccccagtgacottotgtgaaattttcccaccggatgatttcccactgtacttctaccg
TolC POL3	wr iolC		cgaaccaaaaggotcoggatotcaatattgaatocgcagacgtcagcctggacgatgtgcg
lolC	WT	841	cqaaqncgatattttqtqqttcacactcactqqtttcaqtqaaqaqccaaqccqqcac
	1.03.C		

FIG. 5 (cont'd)

PO13	WT iolC		acaccgcgagatcttgactactcgtgcgaaccgtcgccacaccatctttgatctggacta
TolC	wr	983	ccgaccaatgttctqggaatccccagaagaggccaccaagcaggoggaatgggcgttgca
	iolC		
TolC P013		1021 1021	gcattocacggtggcggttggcaacaaggaagaatgcgaaatcgcagtgggcgagaccga
TolC PO13			gccagagcgcgcgggccgagcactgttggaacgcggtgtggagttggccatcgtbaagca
IolC PO13			gggacctaagggtgtcatggcgatgaccaaggacgaaaccgtagaagttcctccgttctt
101C 9013			cgtcgatgtcatcaacggtcttggtgccggcgctgcattcggcggcgcgcgc
TolC PO13			totgotototgaatggoogttggaaaaggttotoogttttgccaacacogogggtgogot
TolC PO13			tgtggcgtcccgtcttgaatgctccaccgcaatgcctactaccgatgaggtggaagcctc
TelC PO13			cotcaaccagaaagtotga

FIG. 6

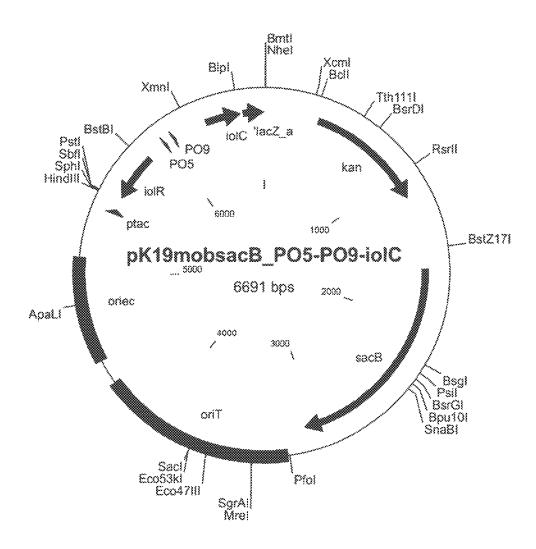


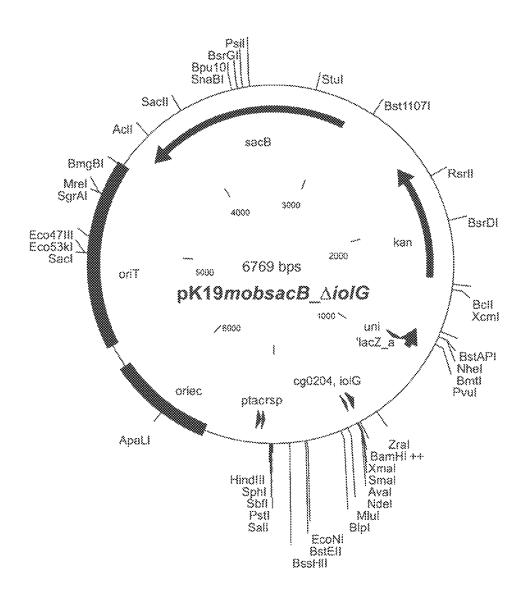
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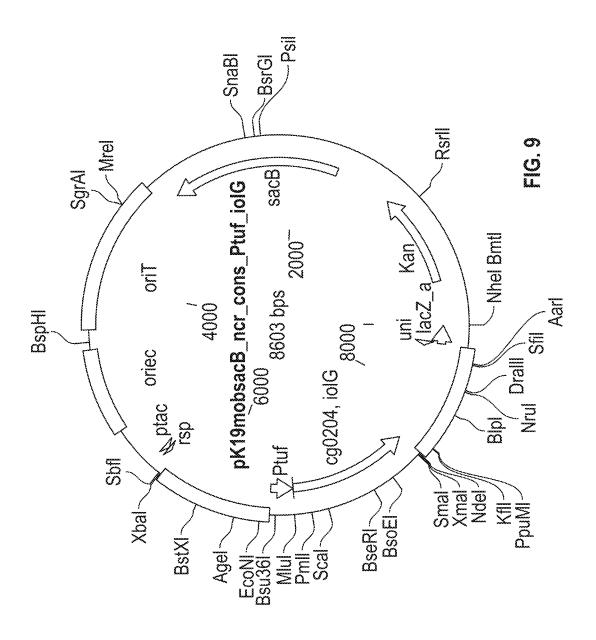
iolo WT PGS-O9 iolo	1	gatquotootttoqttgoocacoosacaegoboatgtaaetqtqtteggeratttgaace
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	61 61	etgtaactgagttgcggggtggtcttggtaaatccgtgttcatgcaggacttttgtgt
iolC WT POS-O9 iolC	121	catocaggyottutatigatotgapattatoacttgcattagggaatgagtagcgaaact
ialo WY POS-O9 ialo	181 181	tagtgaaaagggcagagrittgcaggtcataacgtgcaactttgttaaccccgcaccttcc
		-35
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	241	asagogaggggttttngtoga casagusa satotttgsatgasascogggg c gttgcoct
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	301 301	ggggttttgcgcgttttcgggestcgttttagssesttttcggsestgtsttgct
iolC WT POS-O9 lolC	361 361	aggacaatgigttattgtcatgacatgogatogtgagggtogccacattccatcaaaaat
iolC WT POS-09 iolC	421 421	gagigaagggtigeacogcesesigsotsscitgacgagesciteaegasgiccitagcisi
iolC WT POS-O9 iolC	431 481	cygcogottggycgtagatatttacocacttcaaagtggagtagyactggccyatgttca
iolC WT POS-O9 iolC	541 541	atorttoggcaagtacutuggüggaagogcagcaaaaugtttütgttgoagcugcucguca
ielC WT PO5-09 iolC	601 601	tggacaceattocgcectgctgtcccgtgtgggeaetgetcctttcggcgagtecctgct
ielC WY POS-09 iolC	661 661	tyctgagctggagnybtbgggnglyggacaannagtergbtgroacogabcagactbbtea
iolC WE PO5-09 iolC	721 721	gaccocagtgaccttotgtgasattttccccacoggatgatttcccactgtacttotaccg
iolC WY 905-09 iolC	781. 781	cyascowasygotooggatotowatautgwaucogosgacytoagootggwogwtgtgcg
iolC WT PO5~09 ialC	841 841	ogasgoogstatittgtggttoacactcsctggttroagtgsagagocasgoogoggcac
iolC WY PC5-09 falC	901 901	acacegogagatettgactactegtgogaacogtogocacaceatetttgatotggacta
iolC WT PO5~09 iolC	961 961	ocgacosatgttotgggsstoccssgssgssgcsscossgcsgsgsgssttgcs

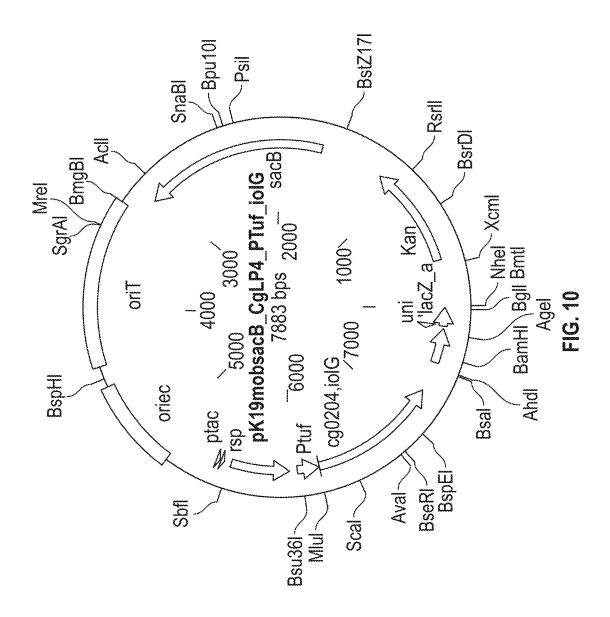
FIG. 7 (cont'd)

iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	1021 1021	gcattccacggtggcggttggcaacaaggaagaatgcgaaatcgcagtgggcgagaccga
ielC WT PO5-09 ielC	1081 1081	gccagagcgcgcgggccgagcactgttggaacgcggtgtggagttggccatcgtcaagca
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	1141 1141	gggacetaegggtgtcatggcgatgaccaaggacgaaaccgtagaagttcctccgttctt
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	1201 1201	cgtcgatgtcatcaacggtcttggtgccggcgatgcattcggcggcgcgctgtgccacgg
iolC WT POS-09 iolC	1261 1261	totgotototgaatggoogttggaaaaggttotoogttttgooaacacogogggtgogot
iolC WT PO5-O9 iolC	1321 1321	tgtggcgtcccgtcttgastgctccsccgcaatgcctactaccgatgaggtggaagcctc
iolC WT PO5-09 iolC	1381 1381	cotcaaccegaaagtotga

FIG. 8







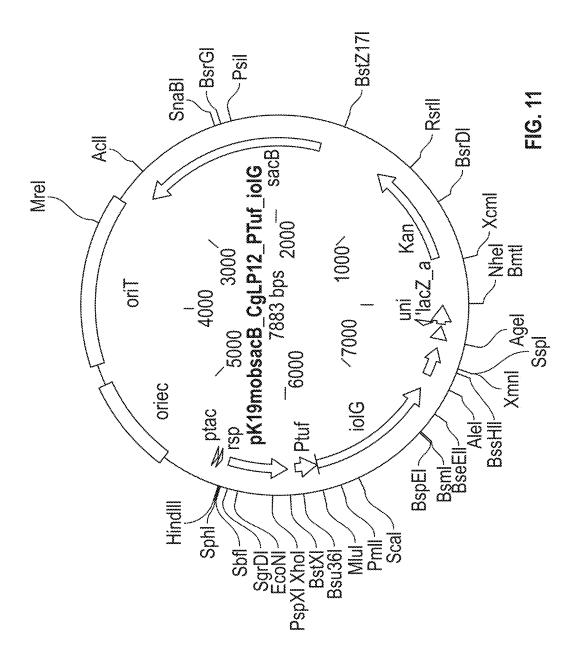


FIG. 12

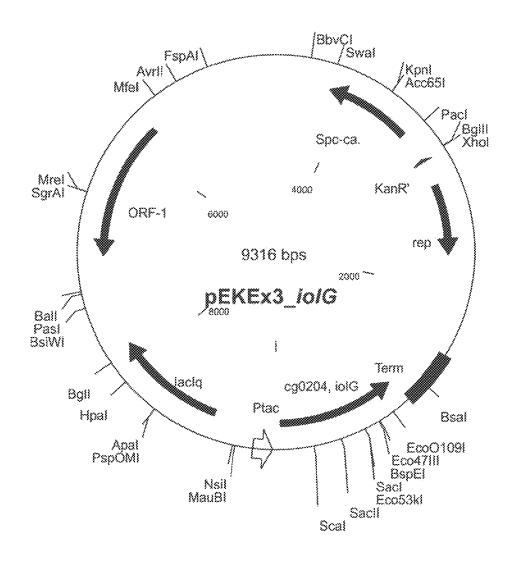
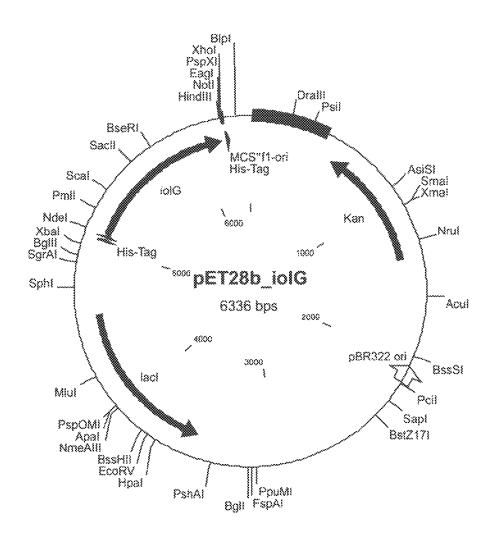
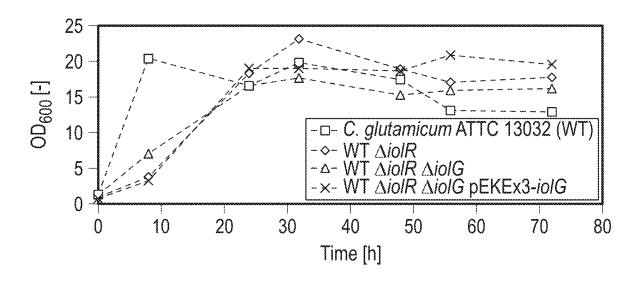
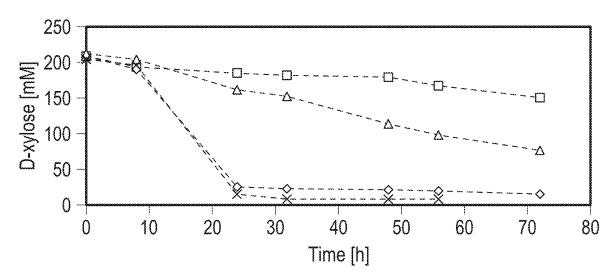


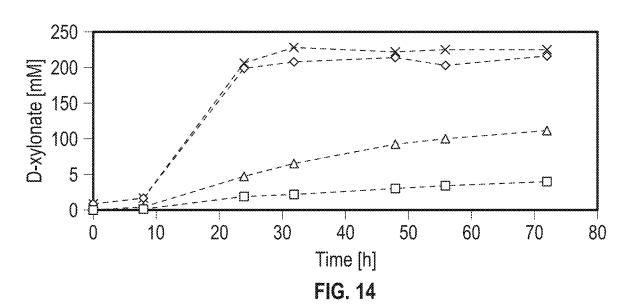
FIG. 13



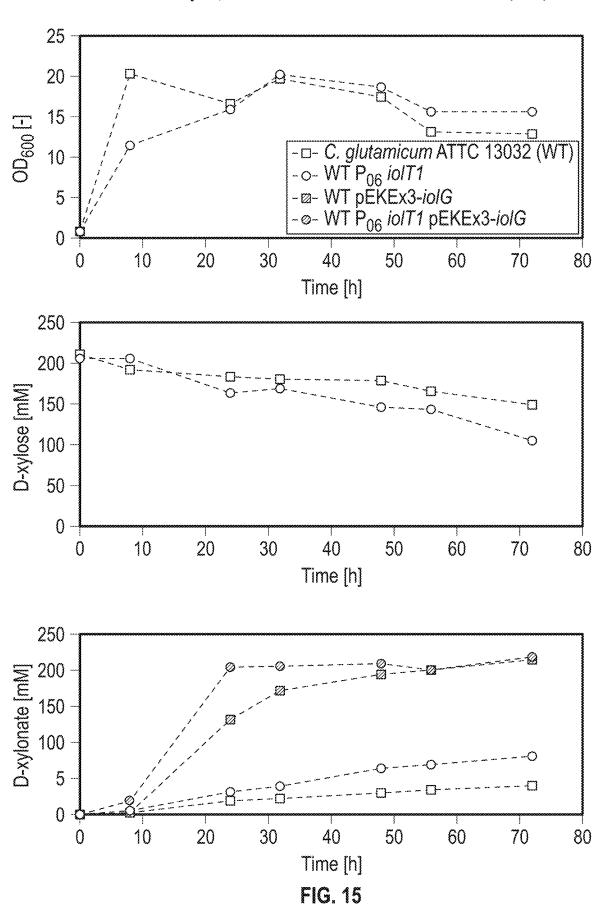


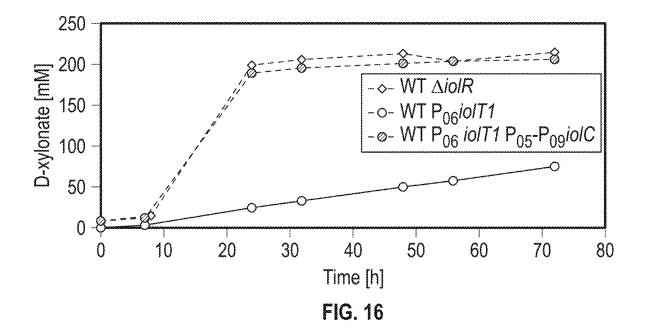
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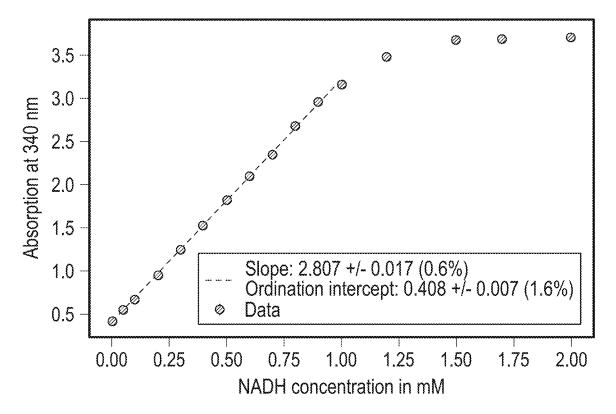
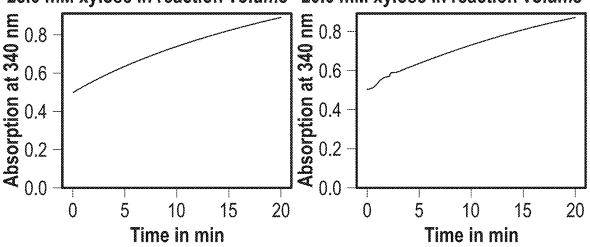


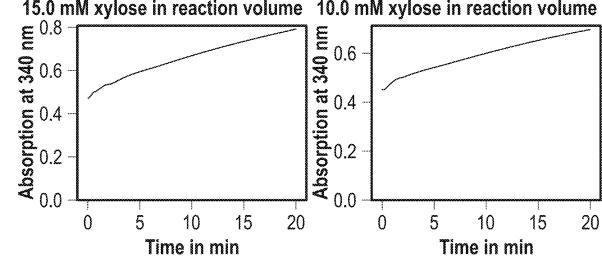
FIG. 17

25.0 mM xylose in reaction volume 20.0 mM xylose in reaction volume

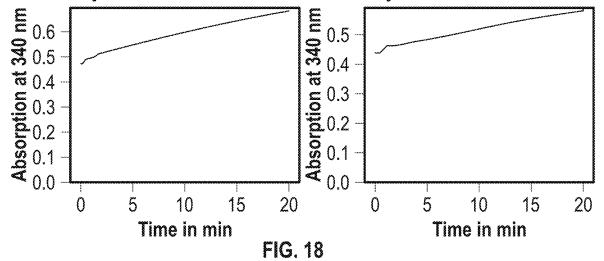
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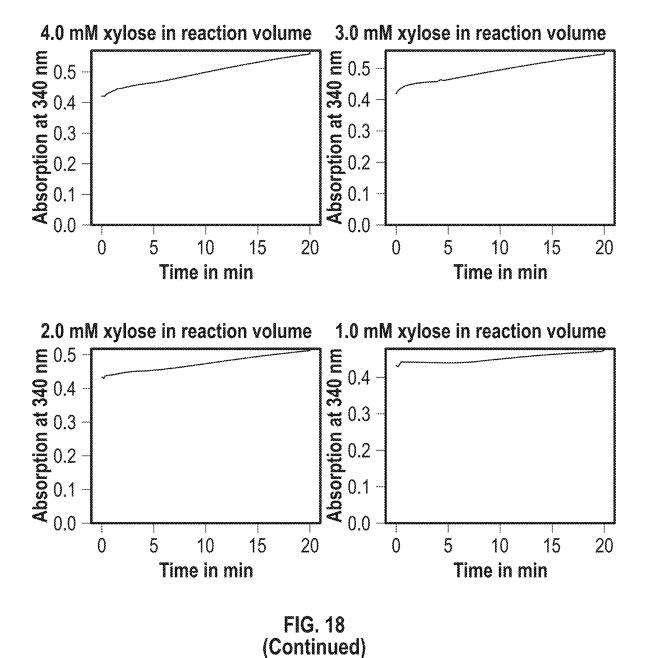


15.0 mM xylose in reaction volume 10.0 mM xylose in reaction volume



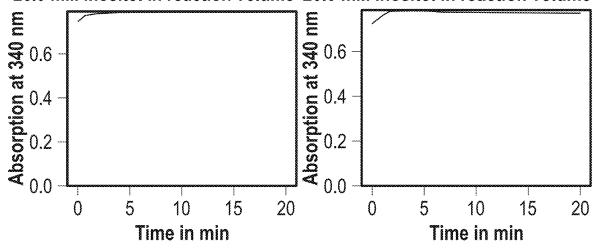
7.5 mM xylose in reaction volume 5.0 mM xylose in reaction volume



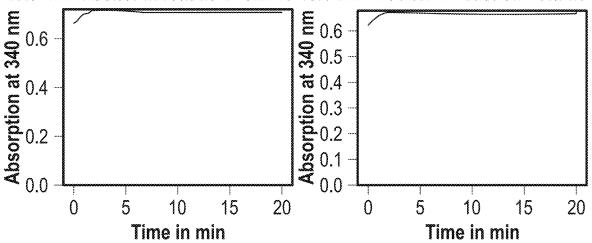


25.0 mM inositol in reaction volume 20.0 mM inositol in reaction volume

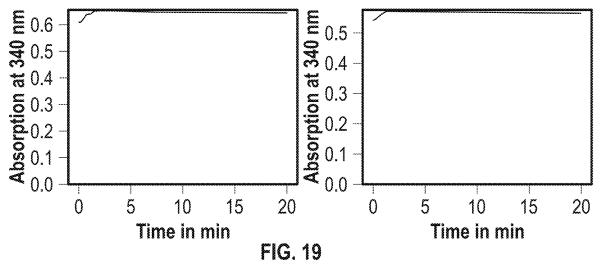
May 27, 2025

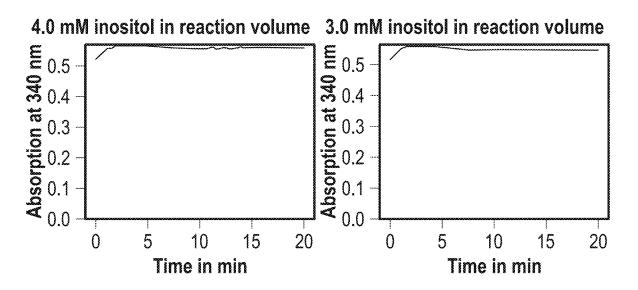


15.0 mM inositol in reaction volume 10.0 mM inositol in reaction volume



5.0 mM inositol in reaction volume 7.5 mM inositol in reaction volume





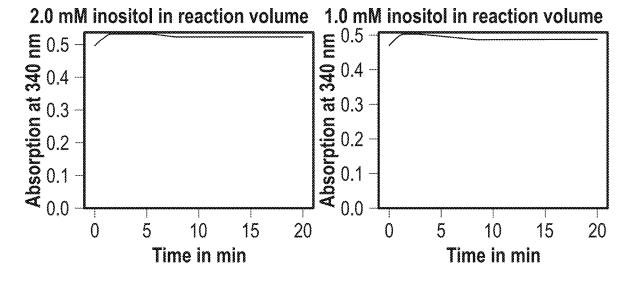
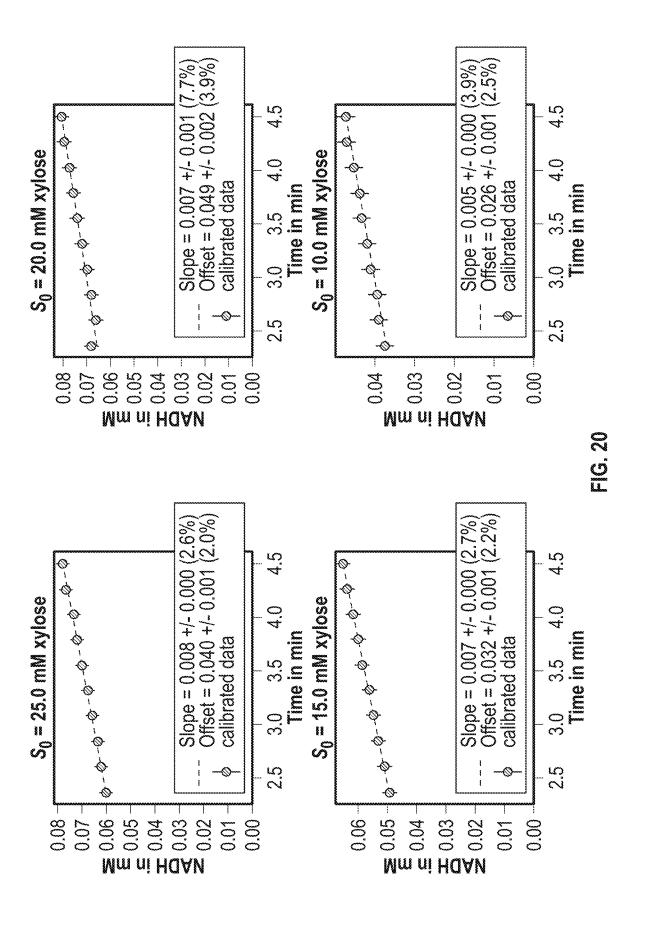
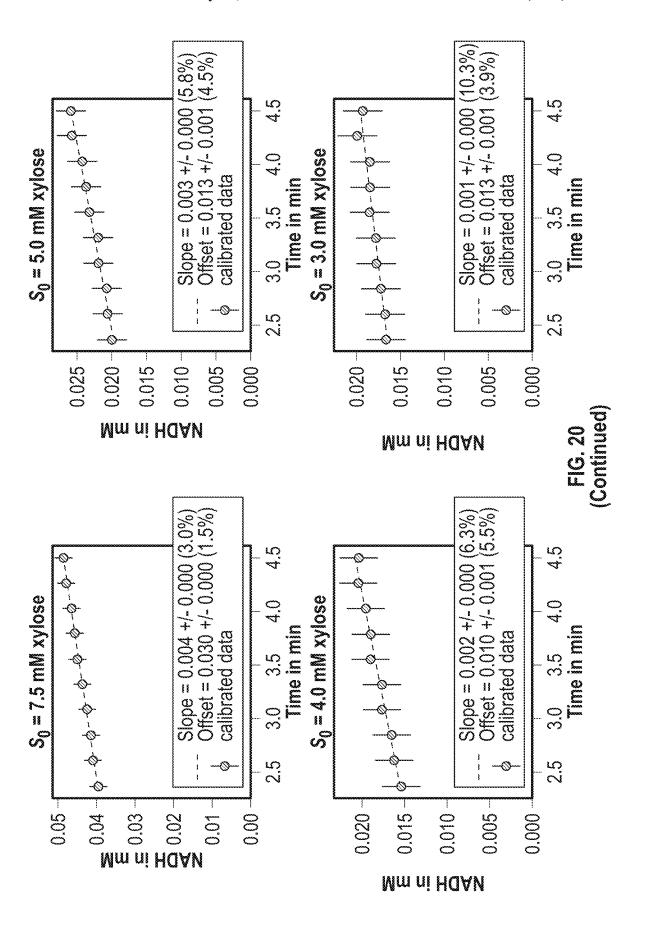
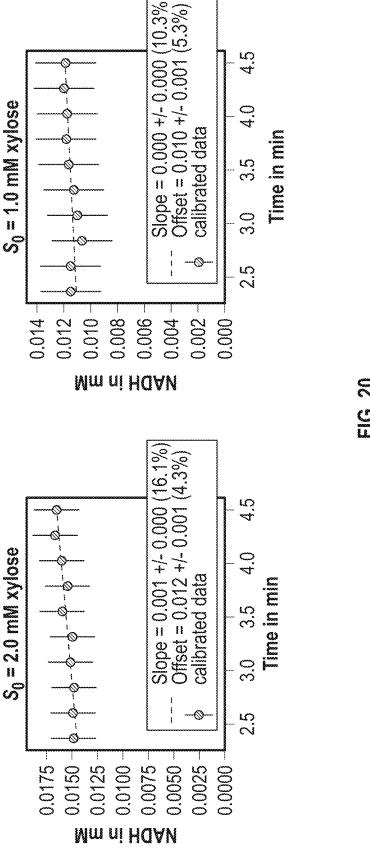


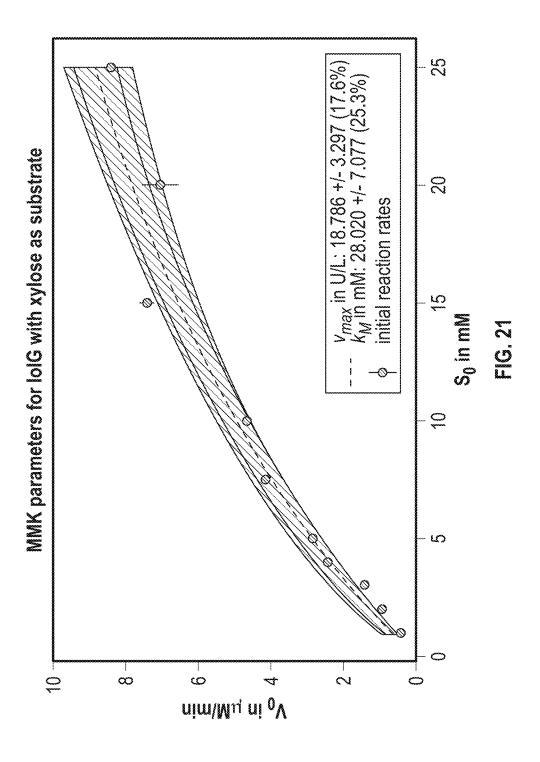
FIG. 19 (Continued)







Continued)



D-XYLOSE DEHYDROGENASE FROM CORYNEFORM BACTERIA AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING D-XYLONATE

CROSS REFERENCE TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. National Phase application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/DE2019/000173, filed on Jun. 29, 2019, and claims benefit to German Patent Application No. 10 2018 005 439.0, filed on Jul. 11, 2018. The International Application was published in German on Jan. 16, 2020 as WO 2020/011294 A1 under PCT Article 21(2).

FIELD

The present invention relates to D-xylose dehydrogenase from coryneform bacteria, nucleic acid sequences encoding same, corresponding living organisms, preferably coryneform bacteria, which contain a D-xylose dehydrogenase with enhanced D-xylose dehydrogenase expression and/or activity, and corresponding uses. The present invention also relates to a process for preparing D-xylonate with D-xylose 25 dehydrogenase from coryneform bacteria.

BACKGROUND

D-xylonic acid ($C_5H_{10}O_6$) is an organic acid which can 30 serve as a precursor for polyamides, polyesters, and 1,2,4-butanetriol (Toivari et al. 2012; https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-012-4288-5) and thus has a broad application potential in the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry, and in the chemical industry.

D-xylonate, the salt of D-xylonic acid, ranks among the top 30 potentially high-grade platform chemicals based on renewable second-generation raw materials (Werpy et al. 2004; http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a436528.pdf). D-xylonate has the potential to replace D-gluconate $_{40}$ ($_{6}H_{11}O_{7}$), which has a global market of $_{100}$ kt/year.

D-xylonate is naturally formed in some bacteria via a two-step reaction. In the first reaction, D-xylose is oxidized to D-xylonolactone, wherein specific dehydrogenases are catalytically active depending on the organism. The D-xylonolactone can subsequently be converted to D-xylonate either by specific lactonases or spontaneously (without an enzyme catalyst). For example, high product titers of D-xylonate are reported for the *Gluconobacter oxydans* and *Pseudomonas fragi* species (Toivari et al., 2012; https://soi.org/10.1007/s00253-012-4288-5; Buchert et al. 1988, http://doi.org/10.1007/BF01028079).

In addition, alternative D-xylonate production strains (e.g., yeast of the species *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, bacteria of the species *Escherichia coli* and fungi of the species *55 Aspergillus niger*) were produced by heterologous expression of D-xylose dehydrogenases, e.g., from *Caulobacter crescentus* (Toivari et al., 2012 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-012-4288-5; Liu et al. 2012; https://doi.Org/10.1016/j.biortech.2011.08.065; US patent 2012/0005788 60 A1).

In addition to microbial production, D-xylonate can be prepared electrochemically (Jokic et al. 1991; https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01020216), enzymatically (Pezzotti & Therisod 2006; https://doi.org/10.1016/65j.carres.2006.05.023), or by chemical oxidation (Isbell & Hudson 1932; Isbell H S, Hudson C S (1932) The course of

2

the oxidation of the aldose sugars by bromine water. Bur Standards J Res 8:327-338; https://archive.org/details/courseofoxidatio83327isbe).

It is known that D-xylonate can be prepared by fermenting strains of coryneform bacteria, in particular *Corynebacterium glutamicum* (Yim et al. 2017; https://doi.org/10.1002/biot.201700040, Choi et al. 2018; https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-017-8653-2). The oxidation of D-xylose to D-xylonate is mediated here by heterologous expression of the xylose dehydrogenase of *Caulobacter crescentus*. However, the expression of heterologous systems is disadvantageous and undesirable with a view to application in the pharmaceutical or food industry. This is because all hitherto known production strains with a D-xylonate synthesis capacity, such as *Gluconobacter oxydans*, require complex media for their growth, as a result of which the cultivation becomes markedly more complex, more expensive, and thus more uneconomical.

In investigations to optimize the substrate during the microbial production of amino acids (e.g., L-lysine and L-glutamate) and other precursors of industrial biotechnology with coryneform bacteria, the ability to take up naturally non-metabolized substrates, such as D-xylose, was investigated. The myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) could be shown to contribute to the uptake of D-xylose in *Coryne-bacterium glutamicum* (Brusseler et al., 2018; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.10.098). However, the D-xylose of coryneform bacteria is not naturally metabolized and thus accumulates in the medium.

WO 2017/220059 A1 discloses that the inactivation or deletion of the iolR gene encoding the regulator protein IolR on a defined medium with D-glucose and D-xylose as carbon and energy sources brings about the formation of D-xylonate.

Klaffl et al. describe gene cg0196 encoding the regulator IoIR in the context of the production of the amino acid L-lysine (2013; https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.00265-13). The deletion of ioIR leads to the expression of the myo-inositol gene cluster as well as a further estimated 22 genes with previously unknown or unambiguously annotated function (Klaffl et al., 2013). Negative physiological effects resulting from the deregulation of these approx. 22 genes cannot be ruled out. Thus, a bacterial strain on its own with such an ioIR deletion does not represent a viable platform for an industrially interesting production strain, which should be genetically unambiguously defined.

SUMMARY

In an embodiment, the present invention provides a D-xylose dehydrogenase comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof. Nucleic acid sequences encoding the same, microbial cells containing such nucleic acid sequences, and processes for preparing D-xylonate are also provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a homology comparison of the amino acid sequences (FIG. 1b) and nucleic acid sequences (FIG. 1a) encoding one of the inventive D-xylose dehydrogenases (IoIG) from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* and the D-xylose dehydrogenase (XyIB) *Caulobacter crescentus*.

FIG. 2 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB P_{OS}ioIT/with which nucleotide substitutions according to the invention were generated in the operatively linked regulatory binding

region of the myo-inositol transporter gene iolT1 in the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

FIG. 3 shows the position of the nucleotide substitutions according to the invention in the regulatory binding site of the myo-inositol transporter gene ioIT1 as compared to the 5 wild type. A nucleotide was respectively exchanged relative to the start codon of IolT1 at positions -112 (C→G) and -113 (A→G). This corresponds to positions 665 and 666 in the total sequence of the iolT1 gene according to certain embodiments of the invention of FIG. 3, in which nucleo- 10 tides AC were substituted for GG. This substitution is between the -35 and -10 box of the iolT1 gene.

FIG. 4 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB P_{O13} iolC with which nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention were generated in the operatively 15 linked regulatory binding region of the carbohydrate kinase gene iolC (of the iolC cluster containing iolG) in the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

FIG. 5 shows the position of the nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention in the 20 regulatory binding site of the iolC gene as compared to the wild type. This regulatory region (upstream of iolC) represents the operatively linked regulatory region of the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according 25 nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydroto certain embodiments of the invention since the iolG gene is organized in a cluster, the so-called iolC cluster of myo-insitol catabolism. A nucleotide was respectively exchanged relative to the start codon of IolC at positions -59 $(C \rightarrow G)$ and -60 $(A \rightarrow G)$. This corresponds to positions 383 30 and 384 in the total sequence of the iolC gene of FIG. 5 according to certain embodiments of the invention, in which nucleotides AC were substituted for GG. This substitution is between the -10 box and the transcription start site (TSS) of the iolC gene.

FIG. 6 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB P_{O5-09}iolC with which nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention were generated in the operatively linked regulatory binding region of the carbohydrate kinase gene iolC (of the iolC cluster containing iolG) in the 40 chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

FIG. 7 shows the position of the nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention in the regulatory binding site of the iolC gene compared to the wild type. This regulatory region (upstream of iolC) represents 45 the operatively linked regulatory region of the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention since the iolG gene is organized in a cluster, the so-called iolC cluster of myo-insitol 50 catabolism. A nucleotide was respectively exchanged relative to the start codon of IolC at positions -240 (A→G), -239 (C \rightarrow G), -174 (A \rightarrow G), and -173 (C \rightarrow G). This corresponds to positions 143, 144, 211, and 212 in the total sequence of the iolC gene according to certain embodiments 55 of the invention of FIG. 7, in which the nucleotides AC were respectively substituted for GG. This substitution is located 5' upstream of the -10 box and the transcription start site (TSS) of the iolC gene.

FIG. 8 shows plasmid pk19mobsacB_Δ iolG with which 60 the nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention was deleted in the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

FIG. 9 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB ncr cons Ptuf 65 iolG with which the nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments

of the invention was integrated into the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum under the control of the constitutive Tuf promoter in the intergenic region between cg1121 and cg1122.

FIG. 10 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB CgLP4 P_{Tu} iolG with which the nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention was integrated into the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum under the control of the constitutive Tuf promoter in the intergenic region between cg0901 and cg0902.

FIG. 11 shows the plasmid pk19mobsacB CgLP12 P_{Tuf} iolG with which the nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention was integrated into the chromosome of Corynebacterium glutamicum under the control of the constitutive Tuf promoter in the intergenic region between cg3227 and cg3228.

FIG. 12 shows plasmid pEKEx3 iolG with the nucleic acid sequence iolG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention was enhancedly expressed in Corynebacterium glutamicum.

FIG. 13 shows plasmid pET28b iolG with which the genase according to certain embodiments of the invention was enhancedly expressed in Escherichia coli BL21.

FIGS. 14 and 15 show growth, D-xylose uptake and accumulation, and the D-xylonate formation of different variants of coryneform bacterial strains.

FIG. 16 shows the D-xylonate formation of different variants of coryneform bacterial strains.

FIG. 17 shows the calibration of the absorption signal at 35 340 nm in the kinetic assay with respect to NADH concentration in mM (blue dots). The valid calibration was set to the range 0 to 1 mM NADH and the corresponding regression line (dashed red line) with associated parameters, their values and errors were plotted.

FIG. 18 shows conversion curves for the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG according to certain embodiments of the invention with D-xylose as substrate, for various concentrations of D-xylose used (25 mM top left to 1 mM bottom right). The absorption measurements recorded are shown for a period of 20 minutes.

FIG. 19 shows conversion curves for IolG with myoinositol as substrate, shown analogously to FIG. 18.

FIG. 20 shows the calculation of initial reaction rates for D-xylose conversion with IolG. Shown are the formations of NADH in mM after calibration of the absorption signal after approx. 2.5 minutes for 10 consecutive measurements (blue dots, approx. 2 minutes duration), for different D-xylene concentrations used respectively from 25 mM (top left) to 1 mM (bottom right). The respective initial reaction rates (red lines) result from the slope of the regression line in mM/min; the respective parameters of the calibration line with values and errors are shown in the individual legends.

FIG. 21 shows the parameter estimation of Michaelis Menten enzyme kinetics from initial reaction rates in the conversion of D-xylose by the D-xylonate dehydrogenase IolG according to certain embodiments of the invention (black dots). The parameters were determined by weighted non-linear regression assuming normally distributed measurement errors and thus correspond to the maximum likelihood estimator of the parameters of the Michael Menten kinetics. The resulting kinetics are shown as a black dashed line; in addition, kinetics based on random values corre-

sponding to the 2-dimensional normal distribution with covariance matrix of the maximum likelihood estimator are plotted as shaded areas.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the invention are independent of or avoid a heterologous gene expression for the microbial preparation of D-xylonate in coryneform bacteria. Furthermore, embodiments avoid such interference in the metabolism of coryneform bacteria which may have widely undefined physiological effects, as is the case, for example, when one or more centrally acting regulators (such as the regulator protein IolR), which exert influence on a multiplicity of genes or proteins in a cell, are turned off. Thus, embodiments of the present invention provide a homologous system and one or more homologous structural elements that enable the microbial preparation of D-xylonate with coryneform bacteria while overcoming known disadvantages. Embodiments of the present invention to provide a process for the microbial preparation of D-xylonate in coryneform bacteria, in which the known disadvantages are overcome.

There first follows a brief description of the present invention, without the subject matter of the invention being 25 limited thereby.

An embodiment of the present invention relates to the provision of a protein having the activity of a D-xylose dehydrogenase from coryneform bacteria.

Another embodiment of the present invention furthermore 30 relates to the use of said D-xylose dehydrogenase for the preparation of D-xylonate. In an embodiment of the present invention, the D-xylonate is prepared in a homologous system, preferably in coryneform bacteria.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a 35 coryneform bacterial cell for preparing D-xylonate, characterized in that it has an enhanced expression and/or increased activity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase

A coryneform bacterial cell selected from the group 40 comprising *Corynebacterium* and *Brevibacterium* is preferred.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a D-xylonate dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention from a coryneform bacterial cell.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a coryneform bacterial cell in which an increased expression of the encoding nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention is present. Another embodiment of the present invention also includes a coryneform bacterial cell having the aforementioned properties which is not recombinantly modified and thus represents a nongenetically modified system (non-GMO) for the preparation of D-xylonate.

Another embodiment are corynform bacterial cells which are a homologous system for D-xylonate preparation and in which an IoIR-mediated deregulation of the D-xylose dehydrogenase is present without modifying the expression and/or activity of the regulator protein IoLR itself. Another 60 embodiment of the present invention thus relates to a coryneform bacterial cell which is characterized in that the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase is reduced 65 or turned off, or one or more IoIR binding sites are partially or completely deleted.

6

One embodiment relates to a process for the microbial preparation of D-xylonate, preferably with coryneform bacteria, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a solution containing water and a C5 carbon source.
- b) microbial reaction of the C5 carbon source in a solution according to step a) to form D-xylonate in the presence of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention in which the expression of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is enhanced and/or in which the activity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is increased, and wherein
- c) isolating and/or conditioning D-xylonate from the solution optionally takes place.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a process in which the microbial reaction to form D-xylonate takes place in a solution containing water and a C5 carbon source selected from the group comprising:

- a) oligosaccharides or polysaccharides containing D-xylose units,
- b) D-xylose, preferably at a concentration of at least 10 $\ensuremath{\text{gL}^{-1}}$,
- c) lignocellulose-, cellulose-, or hemicellulose-containing biomass, the hydrolyzate thereof or extract obtained therefrom containing D-xylose units, and
- d) a combination of a) to c).

In a preferred variant of the process according to certain embodiments of the invention, bagasse, preferably cane sugar bagasse, its hydrolyzate, or extract obtained therefrom containing D-xylose units is used as the C5 carbon source.

The invention also relates to the use of a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention from coryneform bacteria, a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding such a D-xylose dehydrogenase, and coryneform bacterial cells according to certain embodiments of the invention for preparing D-xylonate, preferably with coryneform bacterial cells. In addition to the preparation of D-xylonate in a homologous system (corynform bacteria), the invention also includes the preparation of D-xylonate by means of the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention in a heterologous system.

The invention also relates to the use of D-xylonate, prepared with a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention or according to a process according to certain embodiments of the invention or a composition according to certain embodiments of the invention, for preparing pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, feeds, solvents, colorants, and/or components of the building material industry, preferably cement or concrete.

In the following, embodiments of the invention are 55 explained in more detail using examples and figures, without the subject matter of the invention being limited thereby.

Some definitions that are important to the understanding of the present invention precede the description of the exemplary embodiments.

Another embodiment of the present invention is the provision of a D-xylose dehydrogenase isolated from coryneform bacteria and a nucleic acid sequence encoding such a protein from coryneform bacteria.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a D-xylose dehydrogenase in which the amino acid sequence has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof.

Also included as embodiments of the invention are proteins encoding an amino acid sequence with at least 75 or 80%, preferably at least 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, or 86% identity, particularly preferably at least 87, 88, 89, 90% identity, very particularly preferably at least 91, 92, 93, 94, 95% identity, 5 or most preferably 96, 97, 98, 99, or 100% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof. In addition, the present invention relates to a D-xylose dehydrogenase containing an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof.

Another embodiment of the invention is a D-xylose dehydrogenase encoded by a nucleic acid sequence containing at least 70% identity to the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 or fragments or alleles thereof. Also included in the invention are nucleic acid sequences 15 which have at least 75% or 80%, preferably at least 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, or 86% identity, particularly preferably 87, 88, 89, 90% identity, very particularly preferably at least 91, 92, 93, 94, 95% identity, or most preferably 96, 97, 98, 99, or 100% identity to the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO. 1 20 or fragments or alleles thereof. In addition, an embodiment of the present invention relates to a D-xylose dehydrogenase encoded by a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 or fragments or alleles thereof.

In a further variant of the present invention, the protein 25 according to certain embodiments of the invention or the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention is isolated from coryneform bacteria selected from the group comprising Corynebacterium and Brevibacterium, in particular Corynebacterium glutamicum, Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum, or Brevibacterium divaricatum.

In a preferred variant of the present invention, the protein according to certain embodiments of the invention or the 35 nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention is isolated from coryneform bacteria selected from the group comprising Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC13032, Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum ATCC15806, Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum 40 ATCC13870, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes FERM BP-1539, Brevibacterium flavum ATCC14067, Brevibacterium lactofermentum ATCC13869, Brevibacterium divaricatum ATCC14020.

According to certain embodiments of the invention, a 45 protein is provided from coryneform bacteria, with which protein the preparation of D-xylonate from D-xylose in coryneform bacteria, that is to say in a homologous system, is made possible for the first time. In contrast to the described annotation as inositol-2-dehydrogenase (IolG EC 50 1.1.1.18, encoded by iolg; Klaffl et al, 2013; https://doi.org/ 10.1128/JB.00265-13), remarkably, the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention does not have any inositol-2-dehydrogenase activity. Unexpectedly, the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain 55 embodiments of the invention, with which the preparation of D-xylonate from D-xylose in corynform bacteria is made possible according to certain embodiments of the invention, additionally has no significant homology to other known D-xylose dehydrogenases, such as xylB from Caulobacter 60 crescentus. A protein having the structure and the specific function of the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention from coryneform bacteria has not hitherto been known. Contrary to the general technical knowledge of structural and functional properties of iolG/ 65 IolG, it is thanks to the present invention that a concrete homologous target sequence (homologous "target") from

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coryneform bacteria for the production of D-xylonate from D-xylose in coryneform bacteria (thus in a homologous system) is identified and provided. Thus, by isolating and providing a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention, encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, one or more novel structural elements and variations thereof are made available, with the aid of which D-xylonate can be prepared from D-xylose, preferably in coryneform bacteria as a homologous system. According to certain embodiments of the invention, the D-xylonate production takes place in vitro, preferably enzymatically with an isolated D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, or in the living organism, preferably microbially in bacteria, yeasts, or fungi. The D-xylonate is particularly preferably prepared in coryneform bacteria or organisms of the genus Saccharomyces or Aspergillus. In one variant, the present invention for the first time provides a homologous system for preparing D-xylonate with coryneform bacteria.

Thus, by isolating and providing a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention, encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, one or more novel structural elements are made available, with the aid of which D-xylonate can be prepared from D-xylose. According to certain embodiments of the invention, D-xylonate is prepared in vitro, preferably enzymatically with an isolated D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, or in the living organism, preferably microbially in bacteria, yeasts, or fungi. D-xylonate is particularly preferably prepared in coryneform bacteria or organisms of the genus Saccharomyces or Aspergillus. Embodiments of the present invention furthermore clearly show that by means of minimal and extremely definite nucleotide substitutions in the 5' upstream regulatory regions of the encoding gene sequences for Iolt 1 and IolG, a clearly increased D-xylonate preparation can be achieved: And this without having to introduce genes or structures of heterologous organisms into the coryneform bacterial strain, which would be undesirable, and also without the need for drastic deletions to be made on centrally acting regulators (IolR), which can trigger widely undefined physiological effects in an organism. The few targeted nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention are present in this case to an extent that they are absolutely also found in nature, which distinguishes the corvneform bacterial strain according to certain embodiments of the invention as non-GMO. Thus, in one variant, the present invention provides for the first time a homologous system for the preparation of D-xylonate with coryneform bacteria.

"Homologous" within the meaning of the invention means that the D-xylonate dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention and the nucleic acid sequence encoding it are derived relationally from a common parent strain of coryneform bacterial cells. According to the invention, "homologous" is used synonymously with the term "non-heterologous."

Remarkably, the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention or the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding it has only about 15% identity to the best described D-xylose dehydrogenase (XylB encoded by the gene xylB) from *Caulobacter cresentus* (FIG. 1).

An embodiment of the invention is a nucleic acid sequence isolated from coryneform bacteria encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase. A variant of the present invention

relates to a nucleic acid sequence isolated from coryneform bacteria encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase for preparing D-xylonate, wherein the preparation according to certain embodiments of the invention takes place both in vitro and in living organisms.

Further variants according to certain embodiments of the invention relate to an in-vitro preparation of D-xylonate, and here preferably to an enzymatic preparation with the aid of the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention in isolated form. Another embodiment of the invention is a preparation of D-xylonate in living organisms, particularly preferably a microbial preparation (e.g., culturing) of D-xylonate in host cells selected from the group comprising coryneform bacteria, yeasts, and fungi. Particularly preferred according to certain embodiments of the invention is a microbial preparation (e.g., culturing) of D-xylonate in host cells of the genus selected from the group comprising Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Saccharomyces, and Aspergillus. Very particularly preferred accord- 20 ing to certain embodiments of the invention is a microbial preparation (e.g., culturing) of D-xylonate in Corynebacterium. The invention also includes D-xylose preparation with Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Aspergillus niger, or Corynebacterium glutamicum.

Certain embodiments of the invention relate to nucleic acid sequences selected from the group comprising a) a nucleic acid sequence containing at least 70% identity to the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 or fragments or alleles thereof, or b) a nucleic acid sequence which, under stringent conditions, hybridizes with a complementary sequence of a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 and/or fragments and/or alleles thereof, or c) a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 or fragments or alleles thereof, or d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase corresponding to each of the nucleic acids according to a)-c) but which differs from these nucleic acid sequences according to a)-c) by the degeneracy of the genetic code or functionally neutral 40 mutations. Certain embodiments of the present invention relate to nucleic acid sequences according to the invention for the preparation of D-xylonate. D-xylonate is preferably prepared according to certain embodiments of the invention in living microorganisms, particularly preferably in coryne- 45 form bacteria.

Certain embodiments of the present invention also relate to a nucleic acid sequence which is characterized in that the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the nucleic acid 50 sequence according to the invention encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase is reduced or turned off, or one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites are partially or completely deleted.

Within the meaning of the present invention, a "reduced 55 or turned-off functionality" does not refer to the functionality of the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention and the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding it but specifically to the modified functionality of the IoIR 60 binding sites to which the centrally acting regulator protein IoIR normally binds, thereby repressing the expression of the encoding nucleic acid sequence. Within the meaning of the present invention, "reduced" or "turned off" means that the expression of the encoding nucleic acid sequence is 65 worse or no longer under the expression control of the regulator IoIR compared to the situation in a wild-type host

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cell. In the context of the present invention, "reduced" or "turned off" is intended to be synonymous with "deregulated" or "derepressed."

The term "nucleic acid sequence" within the meaning of the present invention means any homologous molecular unit which transports genetic information. Accordingly, this relates to a homologous gene, preferably a naturally occurring and/or non-recombinant homologous gene, and to a homologous transgene or codon-optimized homologous genes. The term "nucleic acid sequence" according to the invention refers to a nucleic acid sequence or fragments or alleles thereof that code or express a specific protein. Preferably, the term "nucleic acid sequence" refers to a nucleic acid sequence containing regulatory sequences that precede (upstream, 5' non-coding sequence) and follow (downstream, 3' non-coding sequence) the encoding sequence. The term "naturally occurring" gene refers to a gene found in nature, e.g., from a wild-type strain of a coryneform bacterial cell, with its own regulatory sequences.

Within the meaning of the present invention, the term "operatively linked region" relates to an association of nucleic acid sequences on a single nucleic acid fragment so that the function of the one nucleic acid sequence is influenced by the function of the other nucleic acid sequence. In the context of a promoter or binding site for a regulator protein, the term "operatively linked" within the meaning of the invention means that the encoding sequence is under the control of the regulatory region (especially of the promoter or of the regulator binding site) which regulates the expression of the encoding sequence.

More than 22 different genes are thought to be regulated by the regulator protein IolR. For example, iolR itself (negative autoregulation), iolT1, iolC (and the other genes organized with iolC in a cluster or operon) are known to be regulated by IolR. The nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention (and annotated in its function as inositol-2-dehydrogenase encoded by iolG) is organized in coryneform bacteria in the myo-inositol catabolism gene cluster (Klaffl et al, 2013; https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.00265-13). Since the first gene in this gene cluster is the iolC gene, it is hereinafter referred to as an iolC cluster. The regulatory region operatively linked to the iolC cluster thus also regulates the expression of the iolG gene and thus the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention.

The term "modification" within the meaning of the present invention also means, for example, "genetic modification," which means, according to the invention, that although a genetic engineering process is used, no insertions of nucleic acid molecules are produced. Within the meaning of the invention, "modifications" means substitutions and/or deletions, preferably substitutions. Within the meaning of the present invention, "modification" or "genetic modification" is preferably generated in a regulatory, non-coding region of the nucleic acids according to the invention. All conceivable positions in a regulatory region of encoding genes or gene clusters, the modifications of which have a measurable effect on the functionality of the iolR binding sites and IoIR binding, in the sense of "reduced" or "turned off," are intended and included within the meaning of the invention.

A variant of the present invention according to certain embodiments of the invention relates to a nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide substitutions or

nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene cluster. Preferred variants within the meaning of the invention are those selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 8.

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By means of the isolation and provision according to certain embodiments of the invention of a D-xylose dehydrogenase and a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase from coryneform bacterial cells, homologous, 10 genetically defined, non-recombinant (non-GMO) coryneform bacterial cells, which are suitable for the microbial, preferably fermentative production of D-xylonate, can be prepared for the first time.

Within the meaning of the present invention, the term 15 "non-recombinant" is understood to mean that the genetic material of the coryneform bacterial cells according to the invention is only modified in such a way that it could occur naturally, e.g., by natural recombination or natural mutation. The coryneform bacterial cells according to certain embodiments of the invention are thus distinguished as non-genetically modified organisms (non-GMO).

This also opens up the possibility of further optimizing industrially interesting production strains of coryneform bacteria without having to introduce recombinant or heter- 25 ologous gene material into the cell. Certain embodiments of the present invention thus provide a system by means of which the microbial production of D-xylonate can be carried out in a considerably simpler, more stable, cheaper, and more economical manner. This is because all hitherto known 30 production strains with a D-xylonate synthesis capacity, such as Gluconobacter oxydans, require complex media for their growth, as a result of which the cultivation becomes markedly more complex, more expensive, and thus more uneconomical. All of the D-xylonate producers previously 35 described are moreover "non-natural" genetically modified organisms (GMO), inter alia various yeast, fungi, and bacteria. This gives rise to a disadvantage for use in certain industrial sectors (e.g., food and pharmaceutical industries) as a result of complicated approval processes.

The coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention offers a multiplicity of advantages, a selection of which is described below. Coryneform bacteria, preferably the genus *Corynebacterium*, are a "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) organism, which can be 45 used in all industrial sectors. Coryneform bacteria achieve high growth rates and biomass yields on defined media (Grünberger et al., 2012) and there is extensive experience in the industrial use of coryneform bacteria (Becker et al., 2012).

A variant of the present invention also includes the use of the previously described nucleic acid sequences according to certain embodiments of the invention for the preparation of living organisms, preferably microorganisms, particularly preferably bacteria, yeasts, or fungi, very particularly preferably the genus of coryneform bacteria, such as Corynebacterium or Brevibacterium, Saccharomyces or Aspergillus, in particular Corynebacterium glutamicum, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, or Aspergillus niger, for the preparation of D-xylonate.

The invention includes nucleic acid sequences selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ ID NO. 9, SEQ ID NO. 10, SEQ ID NO. 63, or SEQ ID NO. 64 or fragments or alleles thereof for preparing coryneform bacterial cells or other suitable organisms 65 according to certain embodiments of the invention for the preparation of D-xylonate. The variants according to SEQ

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ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 63 of the nucleic acid sequences according to certain embodiments of the invention contain nucleotide exchanges, i.e., substitutions, in the operatively linked promoter region of the iolC gene cluster containing the nucleotide sequence (iolG) encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention. The variants according to SEQ ID NO. 8 or SEQ ID NO. 64 of the nucleic acid sequences according to certain embodiments of the invention contain nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked promoter region of the iolC gene cluster containing the nucleotide sequence (iolG) encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention. A further variant of the present invention relates to the use of a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 7 or 8 for the preparation of coryneform bacteria. The invention also includes the use of the nucleic acid sequences selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO. 63 and SEQ ID NO. 64 for the preparation of coryneform bacteria.

Certain embodiments of the present invention are also nucleic acid sequences containing nucleotide substitutions or deletions in the operatively linked promoter region of the ioIT1 gene of the myo-inositol/proton symporter. Preferred variants include nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 9 or SEQ ID NO. 10. A preferred variant of the present invention relates to the use of a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 9 or SEQ ID NO. 10 in which the operatively linked IoIR binding sites are deleted for the preparation of coryneform bacteria.

Particular preference is given to a coryneform bacterial cell in which there are one or more modifications, selected from the group containing one or more substitutions or one or more deletions in the chromosome.

Certain embodiments of the present invention are a coryneform bacterial cell for preparing D-xylonate, characterized in that it exhibits enhanced expression and/or increased activity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase according to the invention.

Within the meaning of the present invention, "enhanced" 40 is understood to mean "increased," "improved," "modified," or "deregulated," and is used synonymously. "Enhanced" within the meaning of the present invention means, for example, the enhanced gene expression of a gene compared to the expression of the respective parent gene in the unmodified, naturally unenhanced state. Within the meaning of the invention, the same is meant with respect to the increased enzyme activity. For example, the wild type of a coryneform bacterial cell represents a genetically unmodified parent gene or enzyme. Coryneform wild-type cells of the genus Corynebacterium or Brevibacterium are preferred; particular preference is given to coryneform bacterial cells of the wild type Corvnebacterium glutamicum; very particular preference is given to coryneform bacterial cells of the wild type Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC 13032.

A variant of the present invention includes a coryneform bacterial cell, characterized in that it has an enhanced expression of a nucleic acid sequence according to one of the variants described above. A further variant of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention is characterized in that the enhanced expression of the D-xylose dehydrogenase is based on modifications selected from the group comprising a) modifying the regulation or signal structures for gene expression, b) modifying the transcription activity of the encoding nucleic acid sequence, or c) increasing the gene copy number of the encoding nucleic acid sequence. The invention thereby includes modification of the signal structures of the gene expression, such

as by modifying the repressor genes, activator genes, operators, promoters; attenuators, ribosome binding sites, start codon, terminators. Also included are the introduction of a stronger promoter, such as the tac promoter or an IPTGinducible promoter. The introduction of a stronger promoter, 5 such as the tac promoter (Amann et al (Gene 1988 69:301-15), or promoters from the group of promoters described in Patek et al (Microbiology 1996 142:1297), is preferred but not limiting for the present invention. Further examples can be found in WO 96/15246 or in Boyd and Murphy (Journal of Bacteriology 170: 5949 (1988)), in Voskuil and Chambliss (Nucleic Acids Research 26: 3548 (1998), Jensen and Hammer (Biotechnology and Bioengineering 58: 191 (1998)), in Patek et al. (Microbiology 142: 1297 (1996)), in Knippers ("Molekulare Genetik [Molecular Genetics]," 6th 15 edition, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1995) or also in Winnacker ("Gene and Clone," VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim, Germany, 1990). In further variants of the invention, an increased gene copy number of the encoding nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of 20 the invention can be chromosomally encoded or vectorbased, preferably plasmid-encoded. The present invention relates to a coryneform bacterial cell in which the increase in the copy number is chromosomally encoded or extrachromosomally encoded, preferably vector-encoded or plas- 25 mid-encoded. Suitable plasmids according to certain embodiments of the invention are those replicated in coryneform bacteria. Numerous known plasmid vectors, such as pZ1 (Menkel et al., Applied and environmental Microbiology (1989) 64: 549-554), pEKEx1 (Eikmanns et al., Gene 30 102:93-98 (1991)) or pHS2-1 (Sonnen et al., Gene 107:69-74 (1991)), are based on the cryptic plasmids pHM1519, pBL1, or pGA1. Other plasmid vectors, such as those based on pCG4 (U.S. Pat. No. 4,489,160), or pNG2 (Serwold-Davis et al., FEMS Microbiology Letters 66, 119-124 35 (1990)), or pAG1 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,158,891), can be used in the same manner (O. Kirchner 2003, J. Biotechnol. 104: 287-99). Regulatable expression vectors may also be used, such as pEKEx2 (B. Eikmanns, 1991 Gene 102:93-8; 0. Kirchner 2003, J. Biotechnol. 104:287-99). The gene can 40 also be expressed by integration into the chromosome as a single copy (P. Vasicova 1999, J. Bacteriol. 181:6188-91) or multiple copy (D. Reinscheid 1994 Appl. Environ Microbiol 60:126-132). Transformation of the desired strain with the vector to increase the copy number is accomplished by 45 conjugation or electroporation of the desired strain of C. glutamicum, for example. The process of conjugation is described, for example, in Schafer et al. (Applied and environmental Microbiology (1994) 60:756-759). Processes for transformation are described, for example, in Tauch et al. 50 (FEMS Microbiological Letters (1994) 123:343-347).

A further variant of the present invention relates to a coryneform bacterial cell, characterized in that the increased activity of the D-xylose dehydrogenase activity is based on modifications selected from the group comprising a) an 55 increase in the expression of the encoding nucleic acid sequence, b) an expression of a nucleic acid sequence of fragments thereof encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase with increased catalytic activity and/or substrate specificity, c) an increase in the stability of the mRNA derived from the 60 encoding nucleic acid sequence, or d) a modification in the catalytic activity and/or substrate specificity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase for the conversion of D-xylose or a combination of a)-d). The increase in mRNA stability can be achieved, for example, by mutation of the 65 terminal positions which control the termination of transcription. Measures which lead to a modification of the

catalytic properties of enzyme proteins, in particular to a modified substrate specificity, are known from the prior art. In addition to preferred partial or complete deletions of regulatory structures according to certain embodiments of the invention, the invention also includes modifications, such as transitions, transversions, or insertions, as well as directed evolution processes. Instructions for generating such modifications can be found in known textbooks (R. Knippers "Molekulare Genetik [Molecular Genetics]," 8th edition, 2001, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany).

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A preferred variant of the present invention comprises a coryneform bacterial cell in which the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase is reduced or turned off, or one or more IoIR binding sites are partially or completely deleted.

The present invention also relates to a coryneform bacterial cell which has a nucleic acid sequence with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene cluster (containing the nucleic acid sequence ioIG encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention). Preferred variants according to certain embodiments of the invention comprise sequences selected from the group of SEQ ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 8. Further variants according to certain embodiments of the invention comprise sequences selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NO. 63 and SEQ ID NO. 64.

The present invention furthermore relates to a coryneform bacterial cell having a nucleic acid sequence with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1 gene. Variants according to certain embodiments of the invention comprise sequences selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10.

An advantage of the modification according to certain embodiments of the invention of the IolR binding sites in the regulatory region, which is associated with the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, is that the corresponding coryneform bacteria according to certain embodiments of the invention are not modified recombinantly. It is particularly advantageous that the IolR regulator protein itself or the correspondingly encoding iolR gene is not modified. This has the enormous advantage that negative physiological effects are excluded as a consequence of an inactivation of iolR/lolR. As non-GMO, the bacterial cells according to certain embodiments of the invention thus represent a very attractive platform for the large-scale or industrial production of D-xylonate in a homologous system.

Certain embodiments of the present invention thus also relate to a coryneform bacterial cell which is not recombinantly modified. Thus, the invention also includes a coryneform bacterial cell which is not genetically modified (non-GMO)

Certain embodiments of the present invention also relate to a coryneform bacterial cell in which the increased copy number of a nucleic acid sequence encoding D-xylose dehydrogenase according to the invention is chromosomally encoded.

Certain embodiments of the present invention also relate to a coryneform bacterial cell in which the increased copy number of a nucleic acid sequence encoding D-xylose dehydrogenase according to the invention is vector-encoded, preferably plasmid-encoded.

Preferred variants of the present invention include coryneform bacteria in which the iolG gene is chromosomally
encoded at an increased copy number and the corresponding
IolR binding sites are deleted. In a further preferred variant,
the coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention additionally comprises an iolT1 gene
modified by deletions, which because of this is expressed
IolR-independently. These non-recombinant, i.e., homologous, and also precisely defined, coryneform bacterial cells
are advantageously suitable for the large-scale microbial
production of D-xylonate in solutions with D-xylose-containing carbon and energy sources.

According to certain embodiments of the invention, in addition to increasing the xylose dehydrogenase activity, it may be advantageous for the production of D-xylonate to 15 modify the expression or activity of one or more other genes or proteins which are likewise regulated by the regulator protein IolR.

Normally, genetically unmodified coryneform bacteria cannot metabolize D-xylose as the only source of carbon and 20 energy. It is known that the so-called isomerase and Weimberg metabolic pathway must be implemented heterologously for the oxidative metabolization of D-xylose in coryneform bacteria. Through the heterologous expression of corresponding genes from organisms such as xylB from 25 Caulobacter crescentus, a coryneform bacterium can also convert D-xylose enzymatically. However, a heterologous expression is primarily undesirable according to certain embodiments of the invention due to the associated negative properties for industrial D-xylonate production. It is further- 30 more known that a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1), the genes of which are controlled by the IolR regulator protein, contributes to the uptake of D-xylose in the cell of coryneform bacteria. Thus, by modifications, such as deletions or nucleotide substitutions, in the regulatory region of 35 the iolT1 gene, by means of which the binding of the iolR regulator gene is prevented, a bacterial strain independent of the regulation of the iolR regulator can thus be generated. In a further variant of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention, a deregulated iolT1 40 gene is present in which an inventive enhanced expression and/or increased activity of the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is also present. The ioIT2 gene is also relevant for D-xylose catabolism. The invention includes a coryneform bacterial cell 45 containing an enhanced expression of io1T2 gene and/or an increased activity of the myo-inositol/proton symporter

Another embodiment of the present invention is a coryneform bacterial cell a) wherein the activity of a D-xylose 50 dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is increased, b) wherein a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is enhancedly expressed, c) wherein 55 a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) according to SEQ ID NO. 3 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed, d) wherein a myo-inositol/proton symporter lolT1 with an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 4 or fragments thereof 60 has increased activity, e) having a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IolT1) having one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1 gene selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10 or fragments thereof, f) wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton

symporter (IoIT2) according to SEQ ID NO. 5 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed, g) wherein a myo-inositol/proton symporter IoIT2 with an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 6 or fragments thereof is increased in its activity, h) wherein both nucleic acid sequences encoding myo-inositol/proton symporters lolT1/ 2/according to c) and f) are enhancedly expressed, i) wherein both myo-inositol/proton symporters lolT1/2 according to d) and g) have increased activity, j) having a nucleic acid sequence, wherein the functionality of one or more operatively linked IolR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the iolC gene cluster (containing iolG encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention) is reduced or turned off, or one or more IolR binding sites are partially or completely deleted, k) having a nucleic acid sequence, which has one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the opera-

tively linked IolR binding sites of the iolC gene cluster,

preferably selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ

ID NO. 63, and SEQ ID NO. 64 or fragments or alleles

thereof, or 1) a combination of a)-k).

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In a preferred variant of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention, said cell comprises defined modifications of its genome, namely those of a deregulated iolT1 gene and of a deregulated iolG gene. Furthermore preferred are modifications to the regulatory regions of the iolT1 gene or/and iolG gene (or of the iolC gene cluster containing the iolG gene). In particular, preference is given here to substitutions or deletions of the binding sites of the IolR regulator protein. Deletions are furthermore preferred. The bacterial cells according to certain embodiments of the invention are not genetically modified and have no recombinant DNA, which makes them particularly advantageous for use in the large-scale production of D-xylonate, such as in the pharmaceutical or food industry.

In a variant of the present invention, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol regulator IoIR or fragments or alleles thereof may also be completely or partially deleted or the expression of an ioIR gene may be reduced or be absent or a myo-inositol regulator IoIR may be reduced in its activity or completely turned off.

Preferred variants of a coryneform bacterial cell are selected from the group comprising Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, in particular Corynebacterium glutamicum, Corvnebacterium acetoglutamicum, Corvnebacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum, or Brevibacterium divaricatum. Particularly preferred variants of a coryneform bacterial cell are selected from the group consisting of Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC13032, Corvnebacterium acetoglutamicum ATCC15806, Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum ATCC13870, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes FERM BP-1539, Brevibacterium flavum ATCC14067, Brevibacterium lactofermentum ATCC 13869, or Brevibacterium divaricatum ATCC 14020. Corynebacterium glutamicum is particularly preferred but not limiting.

A D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention, a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding it, and a use according to certain embodiments of the invention are also suitable for the preparation of D-xylonate in the broadest sense, in which, for example, a homologous expression system is not absolutely necessary. Thus, the invention also includes heterologous systems or host cells or organisms having the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain

embodiments of the invention and/or the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding it and/or in which a use according to certain embodiments of the invention of the aforementioned elements (such as (regulatory) sequences, genes, proteins) or a 5 process for the preparation of D-xylonate takes place. Thus, the invention includes both a coryneform bacterial cell and also a heterologous host system in which the expression of the iolR gene is reduced or is absent, or the iolR gene is partially or completely deleted, or the IolR regulator protein 10 is reduced in its activity or is completely turned off.

Further variants according to certain embodiments of the invention relate to an in-vitro preparation of D-xylonate, preferably an enzymatic preparation with the aid of a purified D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodi- 15 ments of the invention. Preferred according to certain embodiments of the invention is a microbial preparation (e.g., culture) of D-xylonate in host cells selected from the group comprising coryneform bacteria, yeasts, and fungi. Particularly preferred according to certain embodiments of 20 the invention is a microbial preparation of D-xylonate in host cells of the genus selected from the group comprising Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Saccharomyces, and Aspergillus. Very particularly preferred according to certain embodiments of the invention is a microbial preparation 25 (e.g., culture) of D-xylonate in Corynebacterium. The invention also includes D-xylose preparation with Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Aspergillus niger, or Corynebacterium glutami-

Another embodiment of the invention relate to a use of the 30 D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention or the nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding it for use in heterologous systems or in-vitro systems for biotechnological preparation of D-xylonate from D-xylose.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a process for preparing D-xylonate, comprising the following steps:

- e) providing a solution containing water and a C5 carbon source.
- f) microbial reaction of the C5 carbon source in a solution 40 according to step a) to form D-xylonate in the presence of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention in which the expression of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is enhanced and/or in which 45 the activity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is increased, and
- g) optionally isolating and/or conditioning D-xylonate from the solution.

According to the invention, "solution" is equivalent in 50 meaning to "medium," "culture medium," "culture broth," or "culture solution." Within the meaning of the present invention, "microbial" is equivalent in meaning to "biotechnological" or "fermentative." According to the invention, "reaction" is equivalent in meaning to "metabolization" or 55 "cultivation." According to the invention, "conditioning" is equivalent in meaning to "separation," "concentration," or "purification."

A coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention is used in variants of the process 60 according to certain embodiments of the invention. The invention comprises a process in which the D-xylose dehydrogenase in step b) has an amino acid sequence of at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or fragments thereof or is encoded by a nucleic 65 acid sequence which has at least 70% identity to the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1 or fragments or

alleles thereof. A further variant of the present invention includes a process using a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention a) wherein the activity of a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is increased, b) wherein a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is enhancedly expressed, c) wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) according to SEQ ID NO. 3 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed, d) wherein a myo-inositol/proton symporter IolT 1 with an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 4 or fragments thereof is increased in its activity, e) having a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) having one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolT1 gene selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10 or fragments or alleles thereof, f) wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT2) according to SEQ ID NO. 5 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed, g) wherein a myo-inositol/proton symporter IoIT2 with an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 6 or fragments thereof is increased in its activity, h) wherein both nucleic acid sequences encoding myo-inositol proton symporters lolT1/2/according to c) and f) are enhancedly expressed, i) wherein both myo-inositol/ proton symporters lolT1/2 according to d) and g) are increased in their activity, j) having a nucleic acid sequence, wherein the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the iolC gene cluster (containing iolG encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention) is reduced or turned off, or one or more IolR binding sites are partially or completely deleted, k) having a nucleic acid sequence, which has one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolC gene cluster, preferably selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ ID NO. 63. and SEQ ID NO. 64 or fragments or alleles thereof, or 1) a combination of a)-k).

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In a variant of the process according to certain embodiments of the invention, a coryneform bacterial cell can also be used, which has a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol regulator IolR or fragments thereof, which are completely or partially deleted or in which the expression of an iolR gene is reduced or absent, or a myo-inositol regulator IolR which is reduced in activity or completely turned off

Another embodiment of the present invention is a process in which the microbial reaction to form D-xylonate takes place in a solution containing water and a C5 carbon source selected from the group comprising:

- h) oligosaccharides or polysaccharides containing D-xylose units,
- i) D-xylose, preferably at a concentration of at least 10 gL⁻¹,
- j) biomass containing lignocellulose, cellulose, or hemicellulose, the hydrolyzate thereof or extract obtained therefrom containing D-xylose units, and
- k) a combination of a) to c).

In a preferred variant of the process according to certain embodiments of the invention, bagasse, preferably cane sugar bagasse, its hydrolyzate or extract obtained therefrom containing D-xylose is used as the C5 carbon source. One

variant of the process according to certain embodiments of the invention includes a process in which the culture solution contains D-glucose, preferably at least 8 to 10 gL⁻¹, as carbon and energy sources at the beginning of the cultivation, alongside D-xylose.

The culture medium to be used should adequately satisfy the requirements of the respective microorganisms. Descriptions of culture media of various microorganisms are contained in the handbook "Manual of Methods for General Bacteriology" of the American Society for Bacteriology (Washington D.C., USA, 1981). Besides D-xylose as starting substrate for D-xylonate formation, sugar and carbohydrates, such as glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose, molasses, starch and cellulose, oils and fats, such as soya oil, sunflower oil, peanut oil, and coconut oil, fatty acids, such 15 as palmitic acid, stearic acid, and linoleic acid, alcohols, such as glycerol and ethanol, and organic acids, such as acetic acid, can be used as carbon source. These substances can be used individually or as a mixture. The nitrogen source used may be organic, nitrogen-containing compounds, such 20 as peptones, yeast extract, meat extract, malt extract, maize steeping liquor, soybean meal, and urea or inorganic compounds, such as ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate, ammonium carbonate, and ammonium nitrate. The nitrogen sources can be used individually 25 or as a mixture. Potassium dihydrogen phosphate or dipotassium hydrogen phosphate or the corresponding sodiumcontaining salts can be used as phosphorus source. The culture medium should furthermore contain salts of metals, such as magnesium sulfate or iron sulfate, which are nec- 30 essary for growth. Ultimately, it is possible to use essential growth substances, such as amino acids and vitamins, in addition to the aforementioned substances. The starting materials mentioned can be added to the culture in the form of a one-off batch or fed in appropriately during cultivation. 35 For the pH control of the culture, basic compounds, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonia, or acidic compounds, such as hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, or sulfuric acid, are used in an appropriate manner. Antifoam agents, such as fatty acid polyglycol esters, can be used to 40 control foam development. Suitable selective substances, such as antibiotics, can be added to the medium in order to maintain the stability of plasmids. In order to maintain aerobic conditions, oxygen or oxygen-containing gas mixtures, such as air, are introduced into the culture. The 45 temperature of the culture is normally from 20% to 45%, and preferably from 25% to 40%. The culture is continued until a maximum of D-xylonate has formed. This target is normally achieved within 10 hours to 160 hours.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a 50 process in which cultivation takes place discontinuously or continuously, preferably in batch, fed batch, repeated fed batch mode or as a one-pot hydrolysis fermentation process.

A preferred variant of a process according to certain embodiments of the invention takes place in fed batch mode. 55 Particularly preferred is the "feeding in" of D-xylose.

Another embodiment of the invention includes a process in which the cultivation of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention takes place in a solution which additionally contains D-glucose, 60 preferably in concentrations of at least 8 to 10 gL⁻¹. The invention also relates to a process in which the cultivation of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention takes place in a solution which additionally contains components selected from the group: 65 a) nitrogen, preferably ammonium chloride, b) phosphate, preferably potassium phosphate, c) biotin, and d) a combi-

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nation of a)-c). This process is particularly preferred in the cultivation of a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention with bagasse, preferably cane sugar bagasse, its hydrolyzate or extract containing D-xylose obtained therefrom, as C5 carbon source. The use of biotin is not absolutely necessary for cultivation on bagasse, preferably hydrolyzed bagasse.

In a preferred variant of the process according to certain embodiments of the invention, a coryneform bacterial cell is used which is not modified recombinantly. Thus, the invention also includes a process in which a coryneform bacterial cell which is not genetically modified (non-GMO) is used.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to the use of a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention or a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention or a coryneform bacterial cell according to certain embodiments of the invention for preparing D-xylonate. In one variant of the present invention, D-xylonate is prepared in vitro with purified enzyme.

Another embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention or a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention for preparing a host system selected from the group comprising coryneform bacteria, preferably *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium*, yeasts, preferably *Saccharomyces*, and fungi, preferably *Aspergillus*. The invention also includes a nucleotide sequence selected from the group SEQ ID NO. 9 or SEQ ID NO. 10, preferably in combination with a nucleic acid sequence according to certain embodiments of the invention, for preparing coryneform bacterial cells for the preparation of D-xylonate. A preferred variant of the present invention is used for the microbial preparation of D-xylonate *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Another embodiment of the present invention furthermore relates to a composition containing D-xylonate prepared with a purified enzyme, an enzyme encoded by a nucleic acid sequence, a coryneform bacterial cell, or a process according to the described variants of the present invention. The composition according to certain embodiments of the invention may comprise further substances which are advantageous in the preparation of the desired products. A selection is known to the person skilled in the art from the prior art.

Another embodiment of the present invention is the use of D-xylonate prepared with a purified enzyme, an enzyme encoded by a nucleic acid sequence, a coryneform bacterial cell or according to a process according to the described variants of the present invention, and the use of an aforementioned composition for preparing pharmaceuticals, food, feeds, solvents, colorants, and/or components of the building material industry, preferably cement or concrete. D-xylonate here has the potential to specifically improve the properties of cement or concrete. According to certain embodiments of the invention, it is used as a water reducer, dispersant, or retarder for prolonging the setting time of cement or concrete or other building materials.

Tables and Figures

Table 1 shows an overview of bacterial strains and plasmids of certain embodiments of the present invention. The various strains *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032 iolG¹, *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032 iolG³ represent three integration strains of *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032 with a different number of iolG copies. The

strain *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032 iolG¹ has an integration of the homologous iolG gene in the chromosome, this being in the intergenic region between C. cg1121 and cg1122. iolG² is based on iolG¹ and additionally contains a second integration of the homologous iolG gene in the intergenic region between cg0901 and cg0902. iolG³ is based on iolG² and additionally contains a third integration of the homologous iolG gene in the intergenic region between cg3327 and cg3328.

Table 2 shows an overview of the SEQ ID NOs of certain 10 embodiments of the present invention.

according to certain embodiments of the inventionaccording to cer- 15 tain embodiments of the inventionaccording to certain 20 embodiments of the inventionaccording to certain 25 embodiments of the inventionaccording to certain 30 embodiments of the inventionaccording to certain embodiments of the invention

The present invention is explained in more detail by the following examples, which, however, are not limiting: Modification of the regulatory binding site in the promoter 35 region of the myo-inositol transporter IoIT1 by nucleotide substitutions in *C. glutamicum*

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 PosiolT1 were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https://doi.org/ 10.1007/s002030100262) with the vector pK19mobsacB via 40 double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119(94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of the iolT1 gene (primer: PromiolT1_fw_fw/PromiolT1fw_rev) with the two nucleo- 45 tides to be exchanged or the 3' region of the gene (primer: Piolt1_rev_fw/Piolt1_rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector 50 already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https:// doi.org/10.1038/NMETH.1318). This resulting plasmid pK19mobsacB_P06iolT1 was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. Due to the kanamycin 55 resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plas- 60 mid, a 150 μL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46°

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C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for two hours at 30° C. and the suspension was plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 µl of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: checkPromiolT1fw/checkPromiolT1 rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm successful nucleotide substitutions.

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Primers:
PromiolT1_fw_fw:
TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTGAAAAATTGATCAGCAAACACC

PromiolT1fw_rev:
GGCAGACACGATATCCCCCGTCAATCGTACATAGGGAA

Piolt1_rev_fw:
CGGGGGATATCGTGTCTGCCACGATTAAAG

piolt1_rev_rev:
TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGGAGTCCAAGAAGCACACG

checkPromiolT1fw:
TACGAATGCCCACTTCGCACCCTT

checkPromiolT1rev:
CAACTCATTACGGCCAGCCAGTGAGC
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Modification of the Regulatory Binding Site in the Promoter Region of the Carbohydrate Kinase IolC by Nucleotide Substitutions in *C. glutamicum*

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P_{O6}iolT1P_{O13}iolC were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https:// doi.org/10.1007/s002030100262) with pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119 (94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of the iolC gene (primer: PO13 iolC fw/PO13 iolC rev) with the two nucleotides to be exchanged or the 3' region of the gene (primer: PO13 iolC rev_fw/PO13 iolC rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/10.1038/ NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid pK19mobsacB_PO13iolC was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 μL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum ATCC13032 PosiolT1 cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μF , 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6

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23 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for

two hours at 30° C. and the suspension was plated onto

BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then

tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to

for successful excision in a second recombination event,

cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h

in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 µl of the culture and a 1:10

dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose.

with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant

and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: Check Prom iolC

fw/Check Prom iolC_rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing

was performed in order to confirm successful nucleotide

substitutions.

two hours at 30° C. and the suspension was plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected 5 for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 ul of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar 10 with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: PO9iolC_check_fw/PO5_PO9iolC_check_rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm

Primers: PO13 iolC fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTGGATGCCGTCTTCGAGGC PO13 iolC rev: GACCCTCACGATCGCATCCCATGACAATAACAC PO13 iolC rev fw: GGGATGCGATCGTGAGGGTCGCCACATTC PO13 iolC rev_rev: ${\tt TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGCTTGGCTCTTCACTGAAACCAG}$ Check Prom iolC fw: TCTCGTTTTCTAGGCGTGCTCCGGG Check Prom iolC rev: CGACGGTTCGCACGAGTAGTCA

Modification of the Regulatory Binding Site in the Promoter Region of the Carbohydrate Kinase IolC by Nucleotide Substitutions in C. glutamicum

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P₀₆iolT1P₀₅₋₀₉iolC were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (DOI 10.1007/s002030100262) with the vector pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119(94)90324-7). To this 40 end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of the encoding region of the iolC gene (primer: PO5-PO9 iolC_fw_fw/PO5 PO9iolCfw_rev) with the four nucleotides to be exchanged or the 3' end of iolC (primer: PO5-PO9iolC_rev_fw/PO5 45 PO9iolC_rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of 50 Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (DOI: 10.1038/ NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid was transformed into E. coli DH5 by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. These were 55 checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the moned insert, and its DNA sequence determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 μL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P_{O6} iolT/cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 60 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of 65 BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for

Primers: PO5-PO9 iolC_fw_fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTGGTTGGCGTTTTTGAGGTC PO5-

20 PO5-PO9 iolC_fw_rev: TAAGTTTCGCTACTCATTCCCTAATGCAAGTGATAATCC CAGATCAATAAA

PO5-PO9iolC rev fw: GGAATGAGTAGCGAAACTTAGTGAAAAGGGCAGAGTTTG CAGGTCATAGGGTGCAA

> PO5-PO9iolC rev rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGTCCAGCTCAGCAAGCAGG

PO5-PO9iolC_check_fw: GAGTTTTTCTGCGATGGCGGAACTT

successful nucleotide substitutions.

PO5-PO9iolC check rev: GGGGTCTTAAAAGTCTGATCGGTGG

Modification of the Regulatory Binding Site in the Promoter 35 Region of the Myo-Inositol Transporter lolT1 by Nucleotide Deletions in C. glutamicum

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 ΔP_{O6} iolT/were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https://doi.org/ 10.1007/s002030100262) with the vector pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119(94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of the iolT1 gene (primer: DPO6iolT1_Fw_fw/DPO6iolT1_Fw_rev) with the two deleted nucleotides or the 3' region of the gene (primer: DPO6iolT1_rev_fw/DPO6iolT1_rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/10.1038/ NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid pK19mobsacB_Δ PosiolT1 was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 µL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 µL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was

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incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for at 170 rpm for two hours at 30° C. and the suspension was two hours at 30° C. and the suspension was plated onto plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to 5 be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 µl of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and 10 BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucroseresistant and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: checkPromiolT1fw/checkPromiolT1rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm suc-

Primers: DPO6iolT1 Fw fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTAATTGATCAGCAAACACC DPO6iolT1 Fw rev: ATCGTGGCAGACACGATATCCCGTCAATC DPO6iolT1 rev fw: ${\tt GATATCGTGTCTGCCACGATTAAAGACATTG}$ DPO6iolT1 rev rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGACTGCGAGTCCAAGAAGC checkPromiolT1fw: TACGAATGCCCACTTCGCACCCTT checkPromiolT1rev: CAACTCATTACGGCCAGCCAGTGAGC

cessful deletion.

Modification of the Regulatory Binding Site in the Promoter Region of the Carbohydrate Kinase IolC by Nucleotide Deletions in C. glutamicum

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 $P_{O6}iolT1 \Delta P_{O13}iolC$ were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https:// doi.org/10.1007/s002030100262) with the pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119 40 (94190324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of DPO13iolC_fw_fw/ iolC gene (primer: DPO13iolC_fw_rev) with the two deleted nucleotides or the 3' region of the gene (primer: DPO13iolC_rev_fw/ 45 DPO13iolC_rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19 mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of 50 Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/ 10.1038/NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid pK19mobsacB_\Delta P_{O13}iolC was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that 55 had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 μL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum 60 ATCC13032 P_{O6} iolT1 cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 $\mu L,\,4^{\circ}$ C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). 65 After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6

BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 µl of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: Check Prom iolC fw/Check Prom iolC rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm successful deletion.

> Primers: DPO13iolC fw fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTCCGTCTTCGAGGCGTTGG

DPO13iolC fw rev: GTGGCGACCCTCACGATCGCATCCCATG

DPO13iolC rev fw: GCGATCGTGAGGGTCGCCACATTCCATC

DPO13iolC rev rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGCGCGCCTTGGCTCTTCAC

> Check Prom iolC fw: TCTCGTTTTCTAGGCGTGCTCCGGG

Check prom iolC rev: 30 CGACGGTTCGCACGAGTAGTCA

Modification of the Regulatory Binding Site in the Promoter Region of the Carbohydrate Kinase IolC by Nucleotide Deletions in C. glutamicum

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 PosiolT1 ΔP_{O5-O9}iolC were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https:// doi.org/10.1007/s002030100262) with the vector pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119 (94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated which contained the 5' region upstream of the iolC gene (primer: ΔPO5-PO9iolC_fw_fw/ΔPO5-PO9iolC_fw_rev) with the two deleted nucleotides or the 3' region of the gene (primer: APO5 PO9iolC_rev_fw/APO5 PO9iolC_rev_rev). 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/ plasmid 10.1038/NMETH.1318). The resulting pK19mobsacB_ Δ P_{O5-O9}iolC was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 μL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum ATCC13032 PosiolT1 cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for

then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 μ l of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: check iolG fw/check iolG rev) with subsequent gel electrophoresis was performed in order to confirm successful deletion.

two hours at 30° C. and the suspension plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was then tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 μ l of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: Check Δ PO5-PO9iolC_fw/Check Δ PO5-PO9iolC_rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm successful deletion.

APO5-PO9iolC_fw_fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTGGTTGGCGTTTTTGAGGTC

APO5-PO9io1C_fw_rev: TAAGTTTCGCTACTCATTCCCTAATGCAAGTGATAATCAGAT-CAATAAAAGCCCTGGAT

APO5-PO9iolC_rev_fw: GGAATGAGTAGCGAAACTTAGTGAAAAGGGCAGAGTTT-GCAGGTCATAGTGCAACTTTGTTAACCC

APO5-PO9iolC_rev_rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGTCCAGCTCAGCAAGCAGG

Check APO5-PO9iolC_fw: GAGTTTTTCTGCGATGGCGGAACTT

Check APO5-PO9iolC rev:

Deletion of D-Xylose Dehydrogenase IolG in C. glutamicum

C. glutamicum ATCC13032 \(\Delta\)iolG were constructed 35 according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https://doi.org/ 10.1007/s002030100262) with the vector pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119(94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, two PCR products were generated 40 containing the 5' region of the iolG gene (primer: iolG front fw/iolG front rev) with the first three codons or the 3' region (primer: iolG back fw/iolG back rev) with the last six codons of the iolG gene. 500 base pairs of the flanking regions were amplified in each case for the subsequent homologous 45 recombination. In the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vector already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/ 10.1038/NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid 50 pK19mobsacB_\DeltaiolG was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the 55 presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 µL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was 60 overlaid with 800 µL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° \tilde{C} . The cells were then incubated 65 at 170 rpm for two hours at 30° C. and the suspension plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. The function of the sacB gene was

Primers:

5 iolG front fw:

TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTGAAGAGTTCGGCATGAAGC

iolG front rev:
TACTCCCGGGCATATGGCGAAGGCTCTTGCTCAT

0 iolG back fw:
GAGCCTTCGCCATATGCCCGGGAGTACTGGATCCGTTGATGCGGCACCTCGC

iolG back rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGATGACTCGCCATGCTTCAATACC

> check iolG rev: GGTTAGTGATGTAGCGCAGGCCGTG

30 Chromosomal Integration of D-Xylose Dehydrogenase IolG in C. glutamicum

The various C. glutamicum integration mutants C. glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG¹, C glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG², C. glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG³ were constructed according to Niebisch and Bott (2001) (https://doi.org/ 10.1007/s002030100262) with vectors in each case based on pK19mobsacB via double homologous recombination (Schafer et al., 1994) (https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119 (94)90324-7). To this end, in a first step, PCR products containing the flanking regions of the various integration loci, the constitutional promoter Tuf, and the gene iolG were generated (primer: NCS_PTuf_fw/NCS_PTuf_rev/NCS_Ptuf_iolG_fw/NCS_Ptuf_iolG_rev/CgLP4_fw_fw/ CgLP4_fw_rev/CgLP4_PTuf_fw/CgLP4_PTuf_rev/ CgLP4_iolG_fw/CgLP4_iolG_rev/CgLP4_rev_fw/ CgLP4_rev_rev/CgLP12_fw_fw/CgLP12_fw_rev/ CgLP12_PTuf_fw/CgLP12_PTuf_rev/CgLP12_iolG fw/ CgLP12_iolG_rev/CgLP12_rev_fw/CgLP12_rev_rev). the second step, the DNA fragments were fused together with the pk19mobsacB vectors already cut via restriction endonucleases xBal and EcoRI by means of Gibson assembly in each case (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/ 10.1038/NMETH.1318). The resulting P_{Tut}iolG, pk19mobsacB pk19mobsacB ncr cons CgLP4 P_{Tut}iolG, and pk19mobsacB CgLP12 P_{Tut}iolG were transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the kanamycin resistance gene present on the deconstructed plasmids, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones were checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 µL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 μg of the plasmid to be transformed in each case, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the elec-

troporator (2500 V, 25 μF , 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for two hours at 30° C. and the suspension plated onto BHIS-Kan15 agar. In 5 each case, the function of the sacB gene was tested by transferring the clones to BHI-Kan25 agar and to BHI-Kan25 agar with 10% sucrose. In order to be selected for successful excision in a second recombination event, cells cultured on BHI-Kan25 were cultured for approx. 5 h in 5 mL BHI medium, and 100 μl of the culture and a 1:10 dilution were plated onto BHI agar with 10% sucrose. Clones were transferred to BHI-Kan25 agar and BHI agar with 10% sucrose. A colony PCR of the sucrose-resistant $_{15}$ and kanamycin-sensitive clones (primer: NCS check fw/NCS check rev/CgLP4_Check_fw/CgLP4_Check_rev/ CgLP12_Check_fw/CgLP12_Check_rev) with subsequent DNA sequencing was performed in order to confirm the successful integration in each case.

Primers: NCS PTuf fw: TTTAAATTGTGTCCATGAGGCACAGGGTAGCTGGTAGTTTG

NCS PTuf rev: TCTTGCTCATACGCGTTCCTCCTGGACTTC

NCS Ptuf iolG fw: AGGAACGCGTATGAGCAAGAGCCTTCGC

NCS_Ptuf_iolG_rev: CGAAGCATATGCCCGGGAGTTTAAGCGTAGAAATCTGGGC

NCS check fw: CGGAATGATCTTGACCCTTGTTGGTG

NCS check rev: ATCAAGCAGATCTCTGAGCTGCTGGC

TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTCTTCTGGGTCGGCGATAC

CgLP4 fw rev: CTACCCTGTGCATCAAAAAATCCGCCGTTC

TTTTTTGATGCACAGGGTAGCTGGTAGTTTG

CgLP4 PTuf rev: TCTTGCTCATACGCGTTCCTCCTGGACTTC

CqLP4 iolG fw: AGGAACGCGTATGAGCAAGAGCCTTCGC

CaLP4 iolG rev: CTCACTTAGTTTAAGCGTAGAAATCTGGGC

CgLP4 rev fw: CTACGCTTAAACTAAGTGAGTTTGGATG

CqLP4 rev rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGTAGTACGCGGATAAATGATC

CaLP4 Check fw: TGCAGGTCACTGTGGAAAATCG

CgLP4_Check_rev: AATCAGCATCACCCATCCCTTCAC

CaLP12 fw fw: TGCATGCCTGCAGGTCGACTCGTTGAAGACTCCGTCAAAC

CqLP12 fw rev: CTACCCTGTGATATGCCGATTGCAAGAAAC -continued

CgLP12 PTuf fw: ATCGGCATATCACAGGGTAGCTGGTAGTTTG

CqLP12 PTuf rev: TCTTGCTCATACGCGTTCCTCCTGGACTTC

CgLP12 iolG fw: AGGAACGCGTATGAGCAAGAGCCTTCGC

CaLP12 iolG rev: ATTTTTTGACTGATTAAGCGTAGAAATCTGGGC

CaLP12 rev fw: CTACGCTTAATCAGTCAAAAAATGTTGAAATCAG

CqLP12 rev rev: TTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGTTGGCGCTTCTTTGAAGAG

> CqLP12 Check Fw: CTCAAGGTCATCCGTGAAATGTGGC

CaLP12 Check Rev: TTGGCTTTCCATGCTTTGAGGACT

Plasmid-Based Expression of D-Xylose Dehydrogenase IolG in C. glutamicum

In the first step to isolate genomic DNA, C. glutamicum 25 cells were disrupted by suspension in 50 μL of 2% DMSO and subsequent incubation for 5 minutes at 95° C. Cell debris was centrifuged for 1 min at 11,000 rpm and 3 µL of supernatant was used as a template for the amplification of iolG (primer: p3_iolG_fw/p3_iolG_rev). This amplificate was fused together with the pEKEx3 vector already cut via restriction endonucleases pstl and EcoRI in the Gibson assembly (Gibson et al., 2009) (https://doi.org/10.1038/ NMETH.1318). The resulting plasmid pEKEx3 iolG was transformed into E. coli DH5a by means of heat shock. As a result of the spectinomycin resistance gene mediated by the plasmid, only the clones that had taken up the plasmid could grow. Said clones checked by means of colony PCR and subsequent gel electrophoresis for the presence of the 40 cloned insert, and its DNA sequence was determined. After isolation of the plasmid, a 150 µL aliquot of electrocompetent C. glutamicum cells was thawed on ice, mixed with 1-4.5 µg of plasmid, and transferred to a 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette pre-cooled on ice. The mixture was overlaid 45 with 800 μL, 4° C. cold, 10% glycerol (v/v) and electroporated in the electroporator (2500 V, 25 μ F, 200 Ω , 2 mm). After electroporation, the mixture was transferred to 4 mL of BHIS medium preheated to 46° C. and was incubated for 6 min at 46° C. The cells were then incubated at 170 rpm for two hours at 30° C. The suspension was plated onto BHI-Spc100 agar.

Primers: p3 iolG fw: 55 GCCAAGCTTGCATGCCTGCAGCTAGTATAAGGAGATATAGATAT-GAGCAAGAGCCTTCGC

> p3 iolG rev: CTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGTTAAGCGTAGAAATCTGGGC

60 Medium and Cultivation Conditions

Complex brain heart infusion medium (BD DIFCO™ BRAIN HEART INFUSION AGAR (BHI), a general purpose medium that can be used for aerobic bacteriology, DIFCO™ Laboratories, Detroit, USA) and defined CGXII

65 medium was used to culture C. glutamicum strains. The CGXII medium contained the following composition per liter of deionized water: 1 g K₂HPO₄, 1 g KH₂PO₄, 5 g urea,

Filtration of AC-treated supernatant (0.22 μ m) and concentration by means of rotary evaporator (100 mbar, 60° C. water bath); 4. Filtration of the concentrate (0.22 μ m) and precipitation of D-xylonate by addition of EtOH (3:1, v/v); vacuum drying of the product for at least 12 h at -10° C.

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13.25 mg CaCl₂·2 H₂O, 0.25 g MgSO₄ 7H₂O, 10 mg FeSO₄ 7H₂O, 10 mg MnSO₄·H₂O, 0.02 mg NiCl₂ 6H₂O, 0.313 mg CuSO₄·5 H₂O, 1 mg ZnSO₄ 7H₂O, 0.2 mg biotin, 3,4dihydroxybenzoate, 0.02% (v v⁻¹) antifoam AF204. Spectinomycin and isopropyl β-D-thiogalactosides (IPTG) were 5 added to final concentrations of 100 μg mL⁻¹ or 1 mmol L⁻ for the cultivation of strains with the expression vector pEKEx3. All chemicals were purchased from SIGMA ALDRICH™ (Steinheim, Germany). First, precultures were inoculated onto BHI medium in test tubes from single colonies and incubated for 8 h at 30° C. on a rotary shaker at 170 rpm. From this culture, a second preculture was then inoculated in 500 mL shake flasks with 50 mL of defined CGXII medium and 10 gL⁻¹ D-glucose and 30 gL⁻¹ D-xylose as the carbon and energy source and incubated for 15 h 15 at 30° C. on a rotary shaker at 130 rpm. The main culture was then inoculated onto a OD₆₀₀ of 1 in 50 mL of defined CGXII medium with 10 gL⁻¹ D-glucose and 30 gL⁻¹ D-xylose as the carbon and energy source and incubated for 56 h at 30° C. on a rotary shaker at 130 rpm. Samples were taken 20 from the main culture to measure the concentrations of biomass, D-xylose, and D-xylonate.

The biomass was determined gravimetrically by transferring 2 mL of culture supernatant to a weighed test tube, centrifuging at 13,000 rpm for 10 min and resuspending in 0.9% (w v^{-1}) NaCl. After a further centrifugation step, the supernatant was removed by means of decanting. The cell pellet was dried at 80° C. for 24 h, followed by gravimetric cell dry weight determination. For substrate and product quantification, the supernatants were filtered by means of a cellulose acetate syringe filter (0.2 µm, DIA-NIELSEN, Duren, Germany). D-glucose and D-xylonate were separated by an isocratic exchange process in HPLC (AGILENT 1100 INFINITY, a high performance liquid chromatography instrument, AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES™, Santa Clara, CA). The process uses an organic resin HPLC column 300×8 mm (DIA-NIELSEN, Duren, Germany) as a stationary phase, 0.1 M H₂SO₄ with a flow rate of 0.6 mL min⁻¹ in the form of a mobile phase, a column temperature of 80° C., and an injection volume of 10 µL. D glucose was detected by means of refractive index detector at 35° C. D-xylonate was detected by means of UV light absorption at 215 nm with a diode array detector. Corresponding concentration values were determined by means of external standards and weighted linear regression. An enzymatic assay (Xylose Assay Kit, MEGAZYMETM, Wickow, Ireland) was used for the quantification of D-xylose. All pipetting steps were performed using an automated liquid handling system (FREEDOM EVO™ 200, TECAN™ Group Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland). The increase in NADH was measured at 340 nm by plate reader (INFINITE™ M200, TECAN™ Group Ltd., Männedorf, Switzerland).

Preparation of Bagasse Hydrolysate

Isolation of the D-Xylose Dehydrogenase IolG According to an Embodiment of the Invention

Defined CGXII medium and pretreated bagasse hydrolyzate were used to produce D-xylonate by means of batch 25 and fed batch processes. The pretreatment of ground bagasse (0.25-1 cm) was carried out by incubation in $0.1 \text{ mol } L^{-1}$ H₂SO₄ at 121° C. The subsequent hydrolysis was carried out in a parallel bioreactor system (EPPENDORFTM/DAS-GIPTM, Julich, Germany) with a working volume of 600 mL 30 and a solution consisting of 180 g of pretreated bagasse, 50 mM C₂H3NaO₂ and 10.4 mL of CELLIC® CTeC2 enzyme mix, an enzyme blend composed of cellulases, β-glucosidase, and a hemicellulase (NOVOZYMESTM, Bagsvserd, Denmark). The pH was adjusted to pH 5 by means of KOH 35 and the hydrolysis was carried out at 50° C. for 72 h at constant stirrer speed (400 rpm). 8 g NH₄Cl and 2 g $K_2 HPO_{\!\scriptscriptstyle 4}$ were then dissolved in 200 mL deionized water and added to the hydrolyzate. The medium was then adjusted for culturing purposes to pH 7 by 5 M NH₄OH. Some media 40 components (D-glucose, D-xylose, PCA, trace elements, AF204) were added sterilely after autoclaving. In the case of the fed batch process, a solution of 100 g of L⁻¹ D-glucose in deionized water was used.

Plasmid pET-28b-iolG was transformed into Escherichia coli BL21 for heterologous gene expression of iolG and then cultured in 2×50 mL of TerrificBroth (TB) medium with 50 mg/L kanamycin for 16 hours at 30° C. and 250 rpm. 10 mL each of these cultures was used to inoculate four bioreactor cultures with 20 g/L glycerol as initial carbon source and 50 mg/L kanamycin to maintain selection pressure. The bioreactor cultures were heated to 30° C. and the pH was titrated to pH 7 with ammonia water. Approximately 5 h after cultivation start, gene expression was induced by the addition of 250 μM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG), and again after approx. 32 h. After complete metabolization of the initial glycerol amount, a concentrated substrate solution with 700 g/L glycerol and 20 g/L $\,$ MgSO₄*7H₂O was metered in automatically at a rate of 20 mL/h, based on a 2-point controller (on: DO>30%, off: DO<10%). After approx. 10 hours of feed phase, the cultures were harvested and the cells were separated from the culture medium by centrifugation (8000 rpm) for 20 minutes. The cell mass was stored at -20° C.

During cultivation, the pH was regulated bilaterally to pH 45 7 by feeding in 5 M H₃PO4 and 5 M NH₄OH, respectively. The temperature and aeration rate were fixed at 30° C. and 0.5 vvm, respectively. Aerobic process conditions (>30% dissolved oxygen concentration) were assured by controlling the stirrer speed (400-1,200 rpm). Measurements were 50 made online for pH (405 DPAS SC K80/225, a pressurized gel-filled pH electrode, METTLER TOLEDOTM) DO (VISIFERMTM DO 225, a sensor for the measurement of dissolved oxygen, HAMILTON). and exhaust gas composition (DASGIP® GA4, an exhaust analsyer, EPPENDORFTM 55 AG). A preculture growing exponentially on CGXII medium (20 gL⁻¹ D-glucose) was inoculated onto a final OD of 2. Samples were taken from the main culture to measure the concentrations of biomass, D-xylose, and D-xylonate.

Approx. 60 g cell mass was resuspended in 150 mL equilibration buffer (50 mMTris-HCl, 2 mM MgSO₄, 300 mM NaCl, pH 7.0) on ice for 30 min. The cell suspension was solubilized in a rotary cooling cell using an ultrasound probe (ultrasound processor UP 200S Dr. Hielscher S14D sonotrode, cycle 0.5 amplitude 70) for 30 min. After centrifugation (23000 rpm, 4° C., 35 min), the solubilized supernatant was given up via an Ni-NTA column (column volume 70 mL, flow 6 mL/min) (washing buffer: 50 mMTris pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgSO₄ 25 mM imidazole;

Towards the end of the fermentation, D-xylonate can be 60 isolated from the cultivation solution according to known protocols and/or prepared, i.e., separated, purified, and/or concentrated. For product purification, an existing protocol (Liu et al., Bioresource Technology, 2012, 115: 244-248) was used as follows: 1. Cell separation by means of centrifugation (4500 rpm for 10 min at 4° C.); 2. Decolorization of the resulting supernatant in activated carbon (AC); 3.

elution buffer: 50 MMTris pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgSO₄, 250 mM imidazole). The eluate was collected in fractions of 60 ml in total and desalinated through a SEP-HADEXTM G25, a gel filtration resin for desalting and buffer exchange, column, (column volume 960 mL, flow 10 5 mL/min, desalination buffer: 10 mMTris pH 7.6, 2 mM MgSO₄), of which a total of 150 mL were collected as protein-containing fractions and lyophilized. The resulting lyophilizate had a protein content of 60% according to Bradford protein determination.

Determination of D-Xylose Dehydrogenase Activity

The enzyme tests for the activity determination of IolG lyophilizate were carried out in a total volume of 200 μL. The enzymatic reactions were carried out by rapid addition of 180 µL of reaction mix (250 mM Tris-HCl, 22 mM 15 NAD⁺, 5 mM MgCl², and 125 μL/mL IolG lyophilizate solution at 2.5 mg/L, pH7.5, >30 min preheated to 30° C.) to 20 µL of presented substrate solution (0-250 mM [0-25 mM final per reaction volume] of D-xylose or myo-inositol). Extinction growth was measured at 340 nm in the microtiter 20 plate reader (preheated for >30 min to 30° C.) for approx. 20 min. After a brief transient response of all measurement signals, the initial reaction rates were determined by means of linear regression over a period of 2 min. The resulting increases in the unit [absorption units per minute] were 25 determined in the NADH formation rate in the unit [mM NADH per minute] by calibration of the absorption signal via standard solutions with known NADH concentration instead of substrate solutions, using Gaussian error propagation taking into account the calibration parameter cova- 30 riance matrix. The enzyme shows no activity with respect to the myo-inositol substrate.

In order to determine the maximum enzyme activity (Vmax) and the specific substrate affinity (Km) with respect to D-xylose, the experimental data were fitted to Michaelis 35 Menten kinetics by means of non-linear regression. The enzyme kinetic parameters from the experiments were determined to be Vmax=18.8±3.3 U/L and Km=28.0±7.1.

D-Xylonate Formation in the Homologous Host System of Coryneform Bacteria by Enhanced Expression of the D-Xy- 40 lose Dehydrogenase According to Certain Embodiments of the Invention

Experiments on growth, D-xylose uptake, and D-xylonate formation of different variants of coryneform bacterial strains compared to wild type were carried out in shake 45 flasks in defined CGXII medium with 10 gL⁻¹ D-glucose and 30 gL⁻¹ D-xylose. The following examples clearly show that the D-xylose dehydrogenase activity according to certain embodiments of the invention is responsible for D-xylonate formation in coryneform bacteria FIGS. **14** and **15**. 50

As shown in FIG. 14, all strains show comparable growth on D-glucose as a carbon and energy source. The wild-type strain C. glutamicum ATCC13032 has a very low uptake of D-xylose and conversion to D-xylonate. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 40.0 mM here. The strain C. 55 glutamicum WT AiolR with deletion of the gene for the regulator IolR shows a markedly increased D-xylose uptake and D-xylonate production due to the deregulated expression of the D-xylose transporter lolT1 and the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 60 72 h is 214.7 mM here. The strain C. glutamicum WT ΔiolR ΔiolG, with additional deletion of the gene for the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG according to certain embodiments of the invention, shows a greatly reduced D-xylose uptake and D-xylonate formation due to the lack of expression of the 65 D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 111.9 mM here. The strain C. glutamicum

WT ΔiolR ΔiolGpEKEx3-iolG, with additional plasmid-based expression of the gene for the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG according to certain embodiments of the invention, shows the highest D-xylonate production due to the high homologous expression of the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG, which overcompensates the non-expression (ΔiolG). The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 223.6 mM here.

FIG. 15 shows the D-xylonate formation of further variants of coryneform bacterial strains according to certain embodiments of the invention, in which the functionality of operatively linked regulatory regions of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase according to certain embodiments of the invention is changed. The experiments were carried out in shake flasks in defined CGXII medium with 10 gL⁻¹ D-glucose and 30 gL⁻¹ D-xylose.

The wild-type strain *C. glutamicum* ATC13032 has a very low uptake of D-xylose and conversion to D-xylonate. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 40.0 mM here. The strain *C. glutamicum* WT PosiolT1 with modified promoter sequence in the gene region of the D-xylose transporter lolT1 shows slightly increased D-xylose uptake and D-xylonate production due to the deregulated expression of the D-xylose transporter lolT1. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 80.0 mM here.

The strain *C. glutamicum* WTpEKEx3-iolG with plasmid-based expression of the gene for D-xylose dehydrogenase shows significantly increased D-xylonate production due to the homologous expression of D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 213.9 mM here. The strain *C. glutamicum* WT PosiolT1pEKEc3-iolG, with additional modified promoter sequence in the gene region of the D-xylose transporter iolT1, shows the highest D-xylonate production due to the simultaneous homologous expression of the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG and the deregulated expression of the D-xylose transporter iolT1. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 217.4 mM here.

FIG. 16 shows the D-xylonate formation of further variants of coryneform bacterial strains according to certain embodiments of the invention in which the functionality of operatively linked regulatory regions is modified or deleted. It shows the strain C. glutamicum WT PosiolT1 with modified promoter sequence in the gene region of the D-xylose transporter iolT1, the strain C. glutamicum PosiolT1 P₀₅₋₀₉iolC according to certain embodiments of the invention, in which, in addition to PosiolT1, the functionality of the operatively linked regulatory region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase (P₀₅₋₀₉iolC) is modified and, in comparison, the strain C. glutamicum WT $\Delta iolR$, with deletion of the gene for the regulator iolR. The experiments were carried out in shake flasks in defined CGXII medium with 10 gL⁻¹ D-glucose and 30 gL⁻¹ D-xylose. The strain WT C. glutamicum PosiolT1 with modified promoter sequence in the gene region of the D-xylose transporter lolT1 shows slightly increased D-xylonate production due to the deregulated expression of the D-xylose transporter lolT1. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 74.73 mM here. The strain C. glutamicum WT ΔiolR with deletion of the gene for the regulator IolR shows a markedly increased D-xylonate production due to the deregulated expression of the D-xylose transporter lolT1 and the D-xylose dehydrogenase IolG. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 205.53 mM here. The strain C. glutamicum $P_{O6} iolT1\ P_{05\text{-}09} iolC,$ with modified promoter sequence in the gene region of the D-xylose transporter iolT1 and modified functionality of the operatively linked regulatory region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose

dehydrogenase ($P_{05,09}$ iolC), shows a significantly increased D-xylonate production. The maximum D-xylonate titer after 72 h is 206.82 mM here.

Embodiments of the present invention thus clearly show that a markedly increased D-xylonate production is achieved 5 by minimal and extremely defined nucleotide substitutions according to the invention in the 5' upstream regulatory regions of the relevant encoding gene sequences: And this without having to introduce genes or structures into the corynform bacterial strain, and also without the need for drastic deletions to be made on centrally acting regulators, which trigger widely undefined physiological effects in an organism, which is also desirable according to certain embodiments of the invention. The few targeted nucleotide substitutions according to certain embodiments of the invention are present in this case to an extent that they are also naturally found in nature, which distinguishes the coryneform bacterial strain according to certain embodiments of the invention as non-GMO.

The subject matter of the present invention also includes the following exemplary embodiments:

- Coryneform bacterial cell, characterized in that the enhanced expression of the D-xylose dehydrogenase is based on modifications selected from the group comprising:
 - a) modifying the regulation or signal structures for gene expression.
 - b) modifying the transcription activity of the encoding $_{\ 30}$ nucleic acid sequence,
 - c) increasing the gene copy number of the encoding nucleic acid sequence, and
 - d) a combination of a)-c).
- 2. Coryneform bacterial cell according to subject matter 1, 35 characterized in that the increased activity of the D-xy-lose dehydrogenase activity is based on modifications selected from the group comprising:
 - a) increasing the expression of the encoding nucleic acid sequence,
 - expressing a nucleic acid sequence or fragments or alleles thereof which encodes a D-xylose dehydrogenase with increased catalytic activity and/or substrate specificity,
 - c) increasing the stability of the mRNA derived from the encoding nucleic acid sequence,
 - d) modifying the catalytic activity and/or substrate specificity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase for the conversion of D-xylose, and
 - e) a combination of a)-d).
- Coryneform bacterial cell according to any one of subject matters 1 or 2,
 - a) wherein the activity of a D-xylose dehydrogenase 55 according to the invention is increased,
 - b) wherein a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention is enhancedly expressed,
 - c) wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myoinositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) according to SEQ ID NO. 3 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed,
 - d) wherein the activity of a myo-inositol/proton symporter lolT1 having an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 4 or fragments thereof is increased,

- e) having a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myoinositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1 gene, preferably selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10 or fragments or alleles thereof,
- wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myoinositol/proton symporter (IoIT2) according to SEQ ID NO. 5 or fragments or alleles thereof is enhancedly expressed,
- g) wherein the activity of a myo-inositol/proton symporter IoIT2 having an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 6 or fragments thereof is increased,
- h) wherein both nucleic acid sequences encoding myoinositol/proton symporters lolT1/2 are enhancedly expressed according to c) and f),
- i) wherein the activity of both myo-inositol/proton symporters lolT1/2 is increased according to d) and g),
- j) having a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention, wherein the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the ioIC gene cluster, containing ioIG encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase according to the invention, is reduced or turned off, or one or more IoIR binding sites are partially or completely deleted,
- k) having a nucleic acid sequence encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene cluster, preferably selected from the group containing nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ ID NO. 63, and SEQ ID NO. 64 or fragments or alleles thereof,
- a nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol regulator IoIR or fragments or alleles thereof is completely or partially deleted,
- m) the expression of an iolR gene is reduced or is absent.
- n) the activity of a myo-inositol regulator IolR is reduced or is completely turned off, or
- o) a combination of a)-n).
- 4. Process for preparing D-xylonate, preferably with coryneform bacteria, according to any one of subject matters 1 to 3, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a solution containing water and a C5 carbon source,
- b) microbial reaction of the C5 carbon source in a solution according to step a) to form D-xylonate in the presence of a coryneform bacterial cell in which the expression of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is enhanced and/or in which the activity of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase is increased, and
- c) optional isolation and/or preparation of D-xylonate from the solution.

TABLE 1

	Reference
Strain	_
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 wild type	Abe et al., 1967 (https://doi.org/10.2323/jgam.13.279)
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P_{O6} iolT1	Brüsseler et al., 2018(https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.10.098)
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P_{O6} iolT1 P_{O13} iolC	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 P_{O6} iolT1 P_{O5-09} iolC	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 ΔP_{O6} iolT1	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 ΔPO13 iolC	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 ΔP_{O5-09} iolC	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 ΔiolG	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG ¹	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG ²	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 iolG ³	herein
C. glutamicum ATCC13032 pEKEx3 iolG	herein
E.coli DH5α	Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, MA,
E# DI 21 (DE2)	USA)
E.coli BL21(DE3) Plasmid	Merck (Darmstadt, Germany)
1 idshilid	_
pEKEx3	Gande et al., 2007
PEREN	(https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.00254-07)
pk19mobsacB	Schäfer et al., 1994
1	(https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-
	1119(94)90324-7)
pET-28b	Merck (Darmstadt, Germany)
pk19mobsacB P _{O6} iolT1	Brüsseler et al., 2018
	(https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.10.098)
pk19mobsacB P _{O13} iolC	herein
pk19mobsacB P _{O5-09} iolC	herein
pk19mobsacB Δ P _{O6} iolT1	herein
pk19mobsacB Δ P _{O13} iolC	herein
pk19mobsacB Δ P ₀₅₋₀₉ iolC	herein
pk19mobsacB Δ iolG	herein
pk19mobsacB CgLP12 P _{Tuj} iolG	herein
pk19mobsacB CgLP4 P _{Tuj} iolG	herein
pk19mobsacB ncr cons P _{Tuf} iolG	herein
pEKEx3 iolG	herein

TABLE 2

40

TABLE 2-continued

			- 40			
Sequence	Description	Source	-	Sequence	Description	Source
SEQ ID NO. 1	Nucleic acid sequence of a D-xylose dehydrogenase gene (iolG) from coryneform bacteria	herein	45	SEQ ID NO. 7	Nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide substitutions in the operatively linked IolR	herein
SEQ ID NO. 2	Amino acid sequence of a D- xylose dehydrogenase (IoIG) from coryneform bacteria	herein	50		binding sites of the iolC gene cluster containing the encoding region of the D- xylose dehydrogenase gene	
SEQ ID NO. 3	Nucleic acid sequence of a myo-inositol/proton symporter gene (ioIT1) from coryneform bacteria with 5' regulatory region	Ikeda and Nakagawa, 2003 (DOI 10.1007/ S00253-003-1328-1)			according to certain embodiments of the invention from coryneform bacteria; (P ₀₁₃ iolC with 5' regulatory region and	
SEQ ID NO. 4	Amino acid sequence of a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) from coryneform bacteria	Ikeda and Nakagawa, 2003 (DOI 10.1007/ S00253-003-1328-1)	55	SEQ ID NO. 8	substitution at position 383 (C->G) and 384 (A->G)) Nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide deletions in the	herein
SEQ ID NO. 5	Nucleic acid sequence of a myo-inositol/proton symporter gene (iolT2) from coryneform bacteria	Ikeda and Nakagawa, 2003 (DOI 10.1007/ S00253-003-1328-1)	60		operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolC gene cluster containing the encoding region of the D-	
SEQ ID NO. 6	Amino acid sequence of a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT2) from coryneform bacteria	Ikeda and Nakagawa, 2003 (DOI 10.1007/ S00253-003-1328-1)	65		xylose dehydrogenase gene according to certain embodiments of the invention from coryneform	

SEQ ID NO. 48

SEQ ID NO. 49

SEQ ID NO. 50

SEQ ID NO. 51

SEQ ID NO. 52

SEQ ID NO. 53

SEQ ID NO. 54

SEQ ID NO. 55

SEQ ID NO. 56

SEQ ID NO. 57

SEQ ID NO. 58

SEQ ID NO. 59

SEQ ID NO. 60

Primer CgLP4_iolG_rev

Primer CgLP4_rev_fw

Primer CgLP4_rev_rev

Primer CgLP12_fw_fw

Primer CgLP12_fw_rev

Primer CgLP12_PTuf_fw

Primer CgLP12_PTuf_rev

Primer CgLP12_iolG_fw

Primer CgLP12_iolG_rev

Primer CgLP12_rev_fw

Primer CgLP12_rev_rev

Primer CgLP4_Check_fw

Primer CgLP4_Check_rev

herein

TABLE 2-continued

40
TABLE 2-continued

	TABLE 2-continued	1			TABLE 2-continued	1
Sequence	Description	Source	-	Sequence	Description	Source
	bacteria; (AP013iolC with 5' regulatory region and deletion at position 383 (C) and 384 (A))		5	SEQ ID NO. 61 SEQ ID NO. 62 SEQ ID NO. 63	Primer CgLP12_Check_Fw Primer CgLP12_Check_Rev Nucleic acid sequence having one or more	herein herein herein
SEQ ID NO. 9	Nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide substitutions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1 gene; (P06ioIT1 with 5' regulatory region and substitution at position 383 (C->G) and 384 (A->G))	herein	10		nucleotide substitutions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene cluster containing the encoding region of the D-xylose dehydrogenase gene according to certain embodiments of the invention from coryneform bacteria; (PogioIT1AP05-00ioIC	
SEQ ID NO. 10	Nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1	herein	15		with 5' regulatory region and substitution at position 143 (A->G), 144 (C->G), 211 (A->G), and 212 (C->G))	
GEO ID NO. 11	gene; (AP ₀₆ iolT1 with 5' regulatory region and deletion at position 383 (C) and 384 (A))	have to	20	SEQ ID NO. 64	Nucleic acid sequence having one or more nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene	herein
SEQ ID NO. 11 SEQ ID NO. 12	Primer PromiolT1_fw_fw Primer PromiolT1fw_rev	herein herein			cluster containing the	
SEQ ID NO. 12 SEQ ID NO. 13	Primer Piolt1_rev_fw	herein	25		encoding region of the D-	
SEQ ID NO. 14	Primer Piolt1_rev_rev	herein	23		xylose dehydrogenase gene according to certain	
SEQ ID NO. 15	Primer checkPromiolT1fw	herein			embodiments of the	
SEQ ID NO. 16	Primer checkPromiolT1rev	herein			invention from coryneform	
SEQ ID NO. 17	Primer PO13 iolC fw	herein			bacteria; (P ₀₆ iolT1ΔP ₀₅₋₀₉ iolC	
SEQ ID NO. 18	Primer PO13 iolC rev	herein			with 5' regulatory	
SEQ ID NO. 19	Primer PO13 iolC rev_fw	herein	30		region and deletion at	
SEQ ID NO. 20	Primer PO13 iolC rev_rev	herein			position 143 (A), 144 (C),	
SEQ ID NO. 21	Primer Check Prom iolC fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 65	211 (A), and 212(C)) Primer CgPO5-PO9	herein
SEQ ID NO. 22	Primer Check Prom iolC_rev	herein		SEQ ID NO. 03	iolC_fw_fw	nerem
SEQ ID NO. 23	Primer DPO6iolT1_Fw_fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 66	Primer CgPO5-PO9	herein
SEQ ID NO. 24	Primer DPO6iolT1_Fw_rev	herein	35	`	iolC_fw_rev	
SEQ ID NO. 25 SEQ ID NO. 26	Primer DPO6iolT1_rev_fw Primer DPO6iolT1_rev_rev	herein herein	33	SEQ ID NO. 67	Primer Cg PO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 27	Primer DPO13iolC_fw_fw	herein		ano m 110 co	PO9iolC_rev_fw	
SEQ ID NO. 28	Primer DPO13iolC_fw_rev	herein		SEQ ID NO. 68	Primer Cg PO5- PO9iolC_rev_rev	herein
SEQ ID NO. 29	Primer DPO13iolC_rev_fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 69	Primer Cg PO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 30	Primer DPO13iolC_rev_rev	herein			PO9iolC_check_fw	
SEQ ID NO. 31	Primer iolG front fw	herein	40	SEQ ID NO. 70	Primer Cg PO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 32	Primer iolG front rev	herein			PO9iolC_check_rev	
SEQ ID NO. 33	Primer iolG back fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 71	Primer Cg ΔPO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 34	Primer iolG back rev	herein		CEO ID NO. 72	PO9iolC_fw_fw Primer Cc_APO5	herein
SEQ ID NO. 35	Primer check iolG fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 72	Primer Cg ΔPO5- PO9iolC_fw_rev	nerem
SEQ ID NO. 36 SEQ ID NO. 37	Primer check iolG rev Primer NCS_PTuf_fw	herein herein	45	SEQ ID NO. 73	Primer Cg ΔPO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 37	Primer NCS_PTuf_rev	herein		•	PO9iolC_rev_fw	
SEQ ID NO. 39	Primer NCS_Ptuf_iolG_fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 74	Primer Cg ΔPO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 40	Primer NCS_Ptuf_iolG_rev	herein		SEO ID NO. 35	PO9iolC_rev_rev	1
SEQ ID NO. 41	Primer NCS check fw	herein		SEQ ID NO. 75	Primer Cg Check ΔPO5- PO9iol_fw	herein
SEQ ID NO. 42	Primer NCS check rev	herein	50	SEQ ID NO. 76	Primer Cg Check ΔPO5-	herein
SEQ ID NO. 43	Primer CgLP4_fw_fw	herein	50	22 E 110. 70	PO9iolC_rev	
SEQ ID NO. 44	Primer CgLP4_fw_rev	herein			_	
SEQ ID NO. 45	Primer CgLP4_PTuf_fw	herein		*****		
SEQ ID NO. 46	Primer CgLP4_PTuf_rev	herein			nvention has been illustra	
SEQ ID NO. 47	Primer CgLP4_iolG_fw	herein			rawings and foregoing de	
				trotion and de	accrintion are to be consi	damad illustrations

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, such illustration and description are to be considered illustrative or exemplary and not restrictive. It will be understood that changes and modifications may be made by those of ordinary skill within the scope of the following claims. In particular, the present invention covers further embodiments with any combination of features from different embodiments described above and below. Additionally, statements made herein characterizing the invention refer to an embodiment of the invention and not necessarily all embodiments.

The terms used in the claims should be construed to have 65 the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the foregoing description. For example, the use of the article "a" or "the" in introducing an element should not be interpreted

as being exclusive of a plurality of elements. Likewise, the recitation of "or" should be interpreted as being inclusive, such that the recitation of "A or B" is not exclusive of "A and B," unless it is clear from the context or the foregoing description that only one of A and B is intended. Further, the recitation of "at least one of A, B and C" should be interpreted as one or more of a group of elements consisting of A, B and C, and should not be interpreted as requiring at

least one of each of the listed elements A, B and C, regardless of whether A, B and C are related as categories or otherwise. Moreover, the recitation of "A, B and/or C" or "at least one of A, B or C" should be interpreted as including any singular entity from the listed elements, e.g., A, any subset from the listed elements, e.g., A and B, or the entire list of elements A, B and C.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<220> FEATURE:
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<211> LENGTH: 491
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Ala 65	Phe	Thr	Glu	Gly	Val 70	Val	Thr	Ser	Ser	Leu 75	Leu	Phe	Gly	Ala	Ala 80
Ala	Gly	Ala	Met	Phe 85	Phe	Gly	Arg	Ile	Ser 90	Asp	Asn	Trp	Gly	Arg 95	Arg
Lys	Thr	Ile	Ile 100	Ser	Leu	Ala	Val	Ala 105	Phe	Phe	Val	Gly	Thr 110	Met	Ile
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Ile	Ile	Gly	Asn 180	Val	Phe	Gly	His	His 185	Asp	Gly	Val	Trp	Arg 190	Tyr	Met
Leu	Ala	Ile 195	Ala	Ala	Ile	Pro	Ala 200	Ile	Ala	Leu	Phe	Phe 205	Gly	Met	Leu
Arg	Val 210	Pro	Glu	Ser	Pro	Arg 215	Trp	Leu	Val	Glu	Arg 220	Gly	Arg	Ile	Asp
Glu 225	Ala	Arg	Ala	Val	Leu 230	Glu	Thr	Ile	Arg	Pro 235	Leu	Glu	Arg	Ala	His 240
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Ser 385	Met	Gln	Thr	Phe	Leu 390	Asn	Val	Ala	Thr	Trp 395	Val	Met	Leu	Ser	Glu 400
Leu	Phe	Pro	Leu	Ala 405	Met	Arg	Gly	Phe	Ala 410	Ile	Gly	Ile	Ser	Val 415	Phe
Phe	Leu	Trp	Ile 420	Ala	Asn	Ala	Phe	Leu 425	Gly	Leu	Phe	Phe	Pro 430	Thr	Ile
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Cys Leu Gly Gly	Leu Leu Phe	Gly Tyr Asp Thr	Gly Val Ala Asn Gly
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Ala Glu Gly His	Met Ala Gln	Glu Leu Gly Leu	. Asn Val Leu Gln Leu
50	55		60
Gly Val Val Ile	Ser Ser Leu	Val Phe Ala Ala	Ala Phe Gly Ala Leu
65	70	75	80
Phe Ala Gly Arg	Ile Ser Asp 85	Glu Ile Gly Arg	Arg Lys Ala Ile Ile 95
Thr Leu Ser Val	Leu Phe Phe	Leu Gly Ser Ile 105	Leu Val Val Phe Ser 110
Pro Ala Gly Glu 115	Leu Gly Gln	Phe Tyr Gly Pro	Gly Phe Ala Thr Leu 125
Val Thr Gly Arg	Ile Met Leu	Gly Leu Ala Val	Gly Gly Ala Ser Thr
130	135		140
Val Val Pro Val	Tyr Leu Ala	Glu Leu Ala Pro	Leu Glu Ile Arg Gly
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Ser Leu Thr Gly	Arg Asn Glu 165	Leu Ala Ile Val	Thr Gly Gln Leu Leu 175
Ala Phe Val Ile	Asn Ala Leu	Ile Ala Val Thr	Leu His Gly Val Ile
180		185	190
Asp Gly Ile Trp	Arg Ile Met	Phe Ala Val Cys	Ala Leu Pro Ala Val
195		200	205
Ala Leu Phe Leu	Gly Met Leu	Arg Met Pro Glu	Ser Pro Arg Trp Leu
210	215		220
Val Asn Gln Gly	Arg Tyr Asp	Asp Ala Arg Arg	Val Met Glu Thr Val
225	230		240
Arg Thr Pro Glu	Arg Ala Lys	Ala Glu Met Asp	Glu Ile Ile Ala Val
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His Ser Glu Asn 260	Asn Ala Ala	Leu Pro Gly Val	Lys Gln Ser Ser Gly 270
Gln Ala Ser Gly	Gln Val Ser	Ser Lys His Thr	His Met Ser Ile Gly
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Glu Val Leu Ser	Asn Lys Trp	Leu Val Arg Leu	Leu Ile Ala Gly Ile
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Gly Val Ala Val	Ala Gln Gln	Leu Thr Gly Ile	Asn Ala Ile Met Tyr
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Tyr Gly Thr Arg	Val Leu Glu 325	Glu Ser Gly Met	Ser Ala Glu Met Ala 335
Val Val Ala Asn 340	Ile Ala Phe	Gly Ala Val Ala	. Val Ile Gly Gly Leu 350
Ile Ala Leu Arg 355	Asn Met Asp	Arg Leu Asp Arg	Arg Thr Thr Phe Ile
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Gly Thr Leu Leu 385	Pro Glu Gly 390	Asn Ser Ile Arg	Pro Phe Ala Ile Met

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Deletion an Pos 665 und 666

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eggeegettg ggegtagata tttacceaet teaaagtgga gtaggaetgg eegatgttea
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The invention claimed is:

- 1. A coryneform bacterial cell, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell has an enhanced expression and/or increased activity, compared to the expression of the respective parent gene or enzyme in a wild type coryneform bacterial cell, of a homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises a nucleic acid 50 sequence with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolT1 gene selected from the group containing nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 9 and SEQ ID NO. 10, which enhances expression and/or increases 55 activity of the homologous D-xylose dehydrogenase in the coryneform bacterial cell.
 - 2. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 1, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises a first nucleic acid sequence, wherein the first nucleic acid 60 sequence is
 - a) a nucleic acid sequence containing at least 70% identity to the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO.
 - b) a nucleic acid sequence which, under stringent condi- 65 tions, hybridizes with a complementary sequence of a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1,

- c) a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ. ID NO. 1,
- d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a D-xylose dehydrogenase corresponding to each of the nucleic acids according to a)-c) but which differs from these nucleic acid sequences according to a)-c) by the degeneracy of the genetic code or functionally neutral mutations, and wherein the functionality of one or more operatively linked IoIR binding sites in the regulatory, non-coding region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase in the iolC gene cluster is reduced or turned off, or one or more IolR binding sites are partially or completely deleted.
- 3. The coryneform bacterial cell according claim 1,
- wherein the coryneform bacterial cell has a nucleic acid sequence with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolC gene cluster selected from the group containing nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 7 and SEQ ID NO. 8.
- 4. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 1, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell has a nucleic acid sequence with one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IolR binding sites of the iolC gene cluster selected from the group containing nucleic acid sequences according to SEQ ID NO. 63 and SEQ ID NO. 64.

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- 5. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 1, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell is
 - Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Corynebacterium glutamicum, Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, ⁵ Brevibacterium lactofermentum, or Brevibacterium divaricatum.
 - 6. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 1, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell is Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC13032, Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum ATCC15806, Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum ATCC13870, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes FERM BP-1539, Brevibacterium flavum ATCC14067, Brevibacterium lactofermentum ATCC13869, or Brevibacterium divaricatum 15 ATCC14020.
 - 7. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 1, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises an increased copy number of a nucleic acid sequence encoding D-xylose dehydrogenase, and wherein the ²⁰ increased copy number is chromosomally encoded.
 - **8**. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim **1**, wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises an increased copy number of a nucleic acid sequence encoding D-xylose dehydrogenase, and wherein the ²⁵ increased copy number is extra-chromosomally encoded.
 - 9. The coryneform bacterial cell according to claim 2,
 - a) wherein the activity of the D-xylose dehydrogenase is increased,
 - b) wherein the first nucleic acid sequence is enhancedly expressed,
 - c) wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises a second nucleic acid sequence that encodes a myoinositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) according to SEQ ID ³⁵ NO. 3 or fragments or alleles thereof, and wherein the second nucleic acid sequence is enhancedly expressed,
 - d) wherein the myo-inositol/proton symporter IoIT1 encoded by the second nucleic acid sequence comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 4 or fragments thereof, and wherein the activity of the IoIT1 is increased,
 - e) wherein the second nucleic acid sequence encoding a myo-inositol/proton symporter (IoIT1) comprises one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIT1 gene,
 - f) wherein the coryneform bacterial cell comprises a third nucleic acid sequence that encodes a myo-inositol/ proton symporter (IoIT2) according to SEQ ID NO. 5

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- or fragments or alleles thereof, and wherein the third nucleic acid sequence is enhancedly expressed,
- g) wherein the myo-inositol/proton symporter IoIT2 encoded by the third nucleic acid sequence comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 6 or fragments thereof, and wherein the activity of the IoIT2 is increased.
- h) wherein the second and third nucleic acid sequences encoding myo-inositol/proton symporters IoIT1/2 are enhancedly expressed,
- wherein the activity of both myo-inositol/proton symporters IoIT1/2 is increased,
- j) having the nucleic acid sequence encoding the D-xylose dehydrogenase comprises one or more nucleotide substitutions or nucleotide deletions in the operatively linked IoIR binding sites of the ioIC gene cluster, or
- k) any combination of a)-j).
- **10**. A process for preparing D-xylonate, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a solution containing water and a carbon source,
 - b) culturing the coryneform bacterial cell of claim 1 in the presence of the solution according to step a) to form D-xylonate.
- 11. The process according to claim 10, wherein the D-xylose dehydrogenase in step b) is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which has at least 70% identity to the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 1.
- 12. The process according to claim 10, wherein the carbon source is a) oligosaccharides or polysaccharides containing D-xylose units, b) D-xylose, c) biomass containing lignocellulose, cellulose, or hemicellulose, the hydrolysate thereof or extract obtained therefrom containing D-xylose units, or d) any combination of a)-c).
- 13. The process according to claim 10, wherein the carbon source is bagasse.
 - 14. The process according to claim 10,
 - wherein the culturing takes place discontinuously or continuously, preferably in batch, fed batch, repeated fed batch mode or as a one-pot hydrolysis fermentation process.
 - 15. The process according to claim 10,
 - wherein the solution comprises D glucose in addition to D-xylose.
 - 16. The process according to claim 10,
 - wherein the culturing takes place in fed batch mode.
 - 17. The process according to claim 10,
 - wherein the coryneform bacterial cell is not recombinantly modified.

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